



EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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More thought on sixth forms

It looks as if the DES has had second thoughts on the proposed circular about sixth-form planning. Both Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Gordon Oakes have gone out in their way to raise the question of small sixth forms and their inefficiency. Both in terms of the use of resources and in the range of subjects which they can offer. Now it seems, before any circular is issued, the minister is to be recruited for further study in the Expenditure Scrutiny Group—Education.

What has happened so far could be seen, in part at least, as a vindication of DES attempts at once open government. By flying kites like Mr. Oakes' provocative speech to the Head Masters in March—and not keeping their sums to themselves, ministers have done two things. They have focused attention on an issue which is not going to go away just because people in the schools do not want to know about it. And they have generated enough feedback, before consulting themselves frenzily to a circular, to indicate the most sensitive issues on which more work is needed.

The prompt and forceful response which came from the JLEA behind the scenes and in the form of Mr. Peter Newell's letters in this paper and to Education, has underlined the need to work out an agreed basis for measuring sixth-form costs. The argument has to take place within a framework which can assess not only the costs of different sixth-form timetables in 11 to 18 comprehensive schools, but also the costs of any practical alternatives and the possibility of actually achieving any savings which may theoretically be possible.

What many people outside the charmed circle of DES officials, chief education officers, treasurers and local authority association officials who constitute the ESGE (see Articles, May 27) will want to be sure of is that the educational issues are receiving the same degree of attention as the economic and financial considerations are difficult but not impossible to disentangle.

The pacific pressure who insist that schools be bound to mount, and whilst the unions exist to back up, are certainly the formidable. But how are the educational merits of the small sixth form versus the territory colleges to be fully assessed? If no major increase in fees across the relative affluence of A-level and repeat O-level and CSE courses in schools and in colleges, it would be a relatively simple matter.

Closing down the system

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Otherwise, suggestions that EMAs should be stepped up, have found little support on the part of the fact that the union's share of extra money would go to families which are already managing to keep their children in full-time education.

It is, as I now suggested, £45,000 net the recipients will be boys or girls who might otherwise be in the labour market—and if out of work, drawing on other forms of public support costing from £7,800 a week on supplementary benefit to the £16 offered by the MSC, then the true additional cost of the EMAs themselves might be very little. Three EMAs (£25) would move one teenager from the dole queue £1 a week less than the cost of art MSC allowances also intended to relieve one body from the labour market.

This is not, by any means, the whole story. The cost of educating 45,000 more 16 to 18 year olds would have to be included with calculations and though marginal costs might not reach the full £700 to £800 a head shown in the statistics, there would undoubtedly be an increased expense to meet. In the same way there are other consequential costs attached to the follow-on proposals.

But the important consideration is what makes some action on education, inflationary allowances necessary and urgent.

Peter Newell on the campaign to abolish caning in schools Spare us Europe's blushes

Battering or torturing prisoners, bashing juveniles and now beating children: a squalid succession of cases against the United Kingdom government have been paraded through the European Commission of Human Rights.

The United Kingdom's record at the Commission has already been more than a little tarnished by the finding of guilty in the Irish torture case (Ireland v United Kingdom), and the Commission has also found against the United Kingdom in the Isle of Man birching test case (Tyre v United Kingdom), both of these now go to the European Court of Human Rights, and meanwhile a number of other cases are pending at the Commission on the issue of the use of corporal punishment in British schools.

Mrs Shirley Williams' initiative is to agree on the criteria by which to make a comparison. But no less important considerations are the sixth forms themselves. The Head Masters' Association have repeatedly asked what happens to the teaching and quality of life lower down the school if the sixth forms are shutdown. Most of these members believe it would happen, though this view is not shared by teachers in sixth forms, and meanwhile a number of other cases are pending at the Commission on the issue of the use of corporal punishment in British schools.

Even if there were any evidence that abolition was spreading naturally, there would be a strong case for central government action now, to speed the process and stop the remaining unrepresentative beavers from doing any more damage.

The other argument for keeping the canes is that this, like other aspects of school discipline, is best left to the professional judgment of teachers. This is the argument that has really slowed the otherwise abolitionist band of a succession of Secretaries of State for Education (particularly, of course, those like Edward Short, who had close connections with the NUT).

At what point does a professional judgment become unprofessional? Certainly in the eyes of the European teachers' unions and organizations, using corporal punishment would—as well as being illegal—be regarded as most unprofessional conduct. STOPP (the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment) recently asked all the major European organizations for their views: reported in detail, they are unanimous in saying that they can teach perfectly well without it and are strongly opposed to its reintroduction.

Mrs. Williams' letter from the Department acknowledges only that "our organization could not accept the possibility of the introduction of corporal punishment". We are too concerned with respect for the dignity of human beings for this to be so. Furthermore we are not well disposed to teaching methods which rely on coercion.

Some of the local argument will turn on the strengths and weaknesses of individuals—a head teacher, a college principal there—on in the future application of safeguarding arrangements with local teachers' associations. Mrs. Williams could change much of these considerations by say—legislation which brings school and further education regulations closer together, but there is no likelihood of any single solution being adopted across the board.

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National Association
of Teachers in
Further and Higher
Education, Harrogate
Report by Bert Lodge

**Backing for
pay policy—
but only just**

Delegates took a bold line than their executive in opposing the social contract and cuts in public spending.

They in fact stopped short of deciding no further support for any social contract, accepting instead the executive view that it was only the "present concept" of the contract that was wrong. But they then went on to refuse the suggestion from the executive that ending restrictions on free collective bargaining should be a gradual process.

Delegates, delegates had been urged by Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, to back the social contract.

Another executive resolution calling for salary claims to conform to TUC policy was accepted by only two votes—162 to 160—after a carry count. Mr Stan Broadbridge, who takes over as general secretary this year, remained delegates that the union had no muscle for going it alone.

Delegates were evenly divided on several key issues but a call from Outer London for a flat-rate licence in addition to the post-broadcasting purchasing power of the median salary was overwhelmingly defeated. Instead, delegates voted in favour of percentage increases.

Defending the executive line that another form of social contract was acceptable, Mr Jack Mansell, former president, agreed it had not been entirely successful but it had proved that agreement between the trade union movement and the Government was possible. It had at least held down the inflation rate. High unemployment was a world problem, and could not be attributed to the social contract.

But Mr Richard Kynor, Outer London, said the executive's resolution did not take into account the disastrous results of the social contract.

The conference reaffirmed its resistance to any attempt to interfere with the present arrangement of inflation-prudent pensions.

Time is ripe for closed shop

A call for a closed shop for college lecturers was made last weekend by Mr Jack Hendy, retiring president, at the annual conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

"I think the time has come when we might well advise our members to decline to cooperate or work with individuals who decline to associate with us," he told delegates representing over 60,000 lecturers in further and advanced education and teacher training or Harrogate.

"After all, rights of dissociation, like those of association, are mutual and correlative, and 'freelancers' have no rightful place in institutions dedicated to the inculcation

of proper standards of conduct." In a letter to *The Times*, on May 24, Mr Hendy maintained that the closed shop was a consequence of liberty and not of dictatorship.

In 1970, the former Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions (which merged last year with the College Department of Education to form NATFE) voted in principle for a closed shop but stood abashed of enforcing it. The old ATTI secretaries about five-sixths of the membership of NATFE.

A federation of teaching unions

within the framework of the Trades Union Congress was one of his hopes for the future, Mr Hendy said. It would be a stage on the road to complete unity of the profession.

Delegates took a bold line than their executive in opposing the social contract and cuts in public spending.

They in fact stopped short of deciding no further support for any social contract, accepting instead the executive view that it was only the "present concept" of the contract that was wrong. But they then went on to refuse the suggestion from the executive that ending restrictions on free collective bargaining should be a gradual process.

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All-out stand against all cuts

A demand that the union should make an all-out stand against the cut-back in initial and in-service teacher training was agreed by the association's teacher education committee. Mr Malcolm Lee put forward an amendment which would have removed the association's opposition to voluntary redundancy among lecturers.

He urged members to support an amendment which would oppose the amendment of the cut rather than reject it outright.

Opposition to the entire cut-back in teacher training, he said, emanated in effect to telling some NATFE members that they could not accept retirement or redundancy under the Crumbley agreement even if they wanted to.

The amendment was lost.

Proposing the main motion—which amounted to general opposition to any cuts in education, including voluntary redundancy among lecturers—Mr Vince Hall, Yorkshire and Humberside, and the need was to shift the campaign to the local branch level.

They had been disappointed with the initiative at national level. When they wanted to take action in Local Education Authorities, they asked permission from NATFE headquarters, they heard nothing.

An amendment from Outer London which called for campaigns by regional executives and liaison committees was, he said, an attempt

to castigate any real action by the members.

On behalf of the association's teacher education committee, Mr Malcolm Lee put forward an amendment which would have removed the association's opposition to voluntary redundancy among lecturers.

"A number of our members feel they have reached the age or which they would like to avail themselves of the Crumbley code on retirement terms," he said. "This amendment would make it clear that it is compulsory, reemployment and redundancy that we oppose."

The amendment was lost, as were

several others which attempted to moderate the resolution.

Afterwards Mr Drivé said the movers had got through the mala resolution, Trust Deeds might prevail, voluntary colleges being used for anything but teacher training. If voluntary stopped the resolution, would not allow staff to elsewhere? "It would mean them holding on to jobs for which they have no qualifications."

NATFE is now committed to seek a joint campaign with the National Union of Teachers and other unions of local authority teachers in fight back in education and the social services.

On the day after the conference ended, the executive said they would leave guidance to branches on how to interpret the clause in the resolution opposing voluntary redundancy. The association was committed to retaining a certain number of teacher training places but there were limitations because of employment prospects, the hierarchy and the existing policies of unions in schools.

The association would attempt to save as many posts as possible, to avoid compulsory redundancy and redeployment and seek to make other provisions, particularly by voluntary redeployment and redundancy. "If staff reductions could not be avoided,

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The association would attempt to save as many posts as possible, to avoid compulsory redundancy and redeployment and seek to make other provisions, particularly by voluntary redeployment and redundancy. "If staff reductions could not be avoided,

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L.e.a.s deny casting off drama students

by Bert Lodge

Claims in a letter to *The Times* last month that a growing number of local authorities would stop funding drama students within the next two years—leading to the crippling of many drama schools—were challenged this week by local authority spokesmen.

The letter, signed by Lord Harwood, president, Kenneth Tynan, vice-president, and 13 other members of the National Council for Drama Training, came from the Drama Centre, London Ltd, a private school founded 14 years ago and with a roll of about 80 students. Fees there are £325 a term.

Pointing out that drama students depended on discretionary grants, the letter claimed a number of councils had already suspended all such awards and that many more were certain to follow suit within the next two years. It went on to forecast that by September many of the schools might have received crippling blows.

The Conference of Drama Schools represents 15 establishments recognized by the Department of Education and Science. Almost 30 colleges of music, drama and dancing are listed in the current Education Committee's Year Book.

Mr Poul Gildard, registrar of the Drama Centre, said the centre had conducted a recent survey which showed that nine authorities had suspended awards to students wishing to pursue drama courses. These included Sunderland, Liverpool, Oldham, Calderdale and Salford.

A spokesman for Liverpool education authority admitted that last year no students were funded for drama courses—compared with 56 students in 1970—but said the authority hoped to revert to its former policy of funding all deserving cases from September this year. A spokesman for Sunderland said they had no strict policy and every application went before a further education sub-committee.

A spokesman for Oldham said they had made no cuts in this type of award in the current year and the number of discretionary awards would be maintained in 1977-78. But in considering applications, the authority consulted the drama adviser who might not recommend every establishment, even though it was recognized by the DES. "It takes into account such considerations as employment prospects once the student's course is over and the particular drama school is relevant here," the spokesman said. Oldham

had assisted students on courses at three or four of the better known drama schools in the past two years.

In the Salford area there had been no cut in awards to drama students, a spokesman said. As with applications for music courses, each was considered separately by the committee.

Several authorities maintain their policies towards such applications have not changed. Mr Gordon Crompton, principal education officer for further education, North Yorkshire, said the authority had become less generous in the nature of discretionary awards of necessity but it had decided that for what they called "the creative arts" this austerity would not apply. They continued awards to recognized establishments.

A spokesman for Essex county education authority said the authority was hoping to grant as many awards for drama, music and ballet as there were funds available relinquishing them. The total number of this type of award was around 45 per cent. The authority had a list of up to 10 establishments it regarded as acceptable.

Oxfordshire admitted to a cut of just over £40,000 in discretionary awards this year but a spokesman stressed no discrimination was made against drama students. They were each interviewed by the county adviser.

It is apparent that it is the smaller, lesser-known establish-

ments which are feeling the austerities measures of local authorities most. Prestigious places such as the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the London Academy of Music and Drama have no fears of a shortage of students.

Mr Richard Doughty, the administrator of RADA, said he had come across only two cases of difficulty. One authority said it was cutting out funding high level courses and another offered to pay only a proportion of the fees.

Miss Margaret Broon, administrative secretary, LAMDA, said she had been informed that the Drama Centre had been unfortunate. She knew of one authority, Croydon, which had never funded a student in LAMDA. A spokesman for Equity, the actors' trade union, said grants for drama courses should be maintained. But in the past it had warned local authorities not to allow pecuniary gains against wasting public money on sending students to drama schools when there was no prospect of work for them.

Minister queries foreign grants

Mrs Shirlay Williams, the Education Secretary, has questioned the traditional practice of allowing foreign scholars planning to study in Britain to be selected for awards by their own Government.

Speaking at the London University Institute of Education, she indicated that this system could lead to wasted places when students imported abroad failed to appear in Britain. The DES is also known to be concerned about the possibility of students being selected for scholarships of other than academic grounds.

Mrs Williams said that Britain as a democracy had a responsibility for refugees, their education and welfare. But this responsibility had to be put on a "bottom line" because of the need to take refugees without causing difficulties for the host country.

How to ask about the environment

The growth of environmental education has meant that both with only the most basic connection with pollution, conservation, recycling and recycling have been inundated with requests from groups for information. The requests are often directed to totally unprivate organizations; they were oftenague and likely to come unanswered because no return postage is included.

Now the Council for Environmental Education and the Conservation Trust have produced guidance for schools seeking this sort of information in response to complaints they have received from government sponsored and voluntary

Jubilee

1977



Association of Head Mistresses conference, Scarborough

Inadequate' parents blamed for classroom rebels

Ifish parents who put their own prestige before those of their children were criticized last week by a diversity professor.

Too many parents were unfit to bring up young people, Professor Sir Hawkins of York University told the annual conference of the Association of Head Mistresses. The reason was that some schools had truancy rates, constant vandalism and violence. Was because some parents were inadequate to be parents, he said.

In the schools I have been looking at where truancy and school absence rate at one third or more of the school population, where vandalism is constant and violence of a high and violent level taken for granted, where classroom behaviour and motivation is poor, the main reason is that too many parents are simply inadequate to the role of parent.

I have seen schools where as many as 50 per cent of the homes in which children come are not really, in any real sense. They are shells, devoid of affection, security, of cleanliness, empty of routine or planning. There are no routines or times getting up, going to bed, eating times do not exist. Meals are even served on a table. Meal chat is unknown. Food is taken from a shelf, from a canteen packet or a tin in the interval between TV programmes.

Children wander in and out of empty un furnished caves as adults themselves do, without anyone or anyone in charge. In these vacuum homes a future of our children—self future—is learning to become turn a generation of inadequate parents in a never-ending circle.

Professor Hawkins said he did not know many of these "vacuum" existed. "But these empty are the tip of an iceberg of irresponsibility and inadequacy," he said.

"One of the strengths of English education has always been the freedom of its schools and I seriously wonder whether such a fundamental change might eventually lose for our schools more than any gain could justify. Would it lead to an even tighter central control of the curriculum? This would be a step in an entirely new direction, she said.

Miss Mollie Blake, who is also head of Manchester High School for Girls, told the conference that the Green Paper which is to follow the great debate on education is likely to set out the Government's proposals for a national framework.

This would be a step in an entirely new direction, she said.

Miss Blake said that changes might be needed in the way children were taught to read, write and calculate.

Of course, we expect that in almost all our schools there are young people who are literate and numerate and whose behavioural problems not only take up a disproportionate amount of our time and energy but also become eventually counter-productive to their

as teachers' roles in classrooms was the most important tactic devised. But that was killed by the teachers' union, he said.

Perhaps a majority of parents had turned aside to their adult pleasures, to making money, and to "selfish, trivial pursuits" so that they had no time for the young, many of whom are growing up left to their own devices like the children in *Lori of the Flies*.

"Parenting means above all being willing to invest time, patience and interest in the job of bringing up children," Professor Hawkins said. "I have been in schools where three-quarters of the children arrived at 9 am, not from homes, but from baby-sitters where they had been left an hour earlier.

Their last time with adults had to be restored, he said. The proposal 10 years ago in the Plowden report that adults should be used

"

to

balloon like Birmingham and see the thousands of children whose empty lives are out for an adult to take them by the hand, end to observe the thousands of full-time students on state grants making no contribution whatever to a job that they are evidently equipped to do." Each child should spend one year attached to a family as a tutor to a

teacher and conflict would result. Within schools, older pupils could help by tutoring younger ones. Pupils who had been through such a system, where older children helped the younger to learn, would prove to be better parents and be more able to give their adult time to children whom society had cheated.

Professor Hawkins said he did not want to offend parents who were trying hard and struggling under terrible circumstances of poverty and despair, but the most important problem facing comprehensive schools was inadequate homes.

The headmistresses are to vote on a merger with headmasters. A ballot of members of the Association of Head Mistresses will shortly be held and the signs are that the new organisation called the Secondary Heads' Association, will be approved.

own long-term interests."

Teachers knew how to improve standards, she said, but the public purse was empty and if the nation could not afford changes, then an alternative would be left to slip back. Suggestions for separate six-form colleges would have a devastating effect on parts of the school curriculum, she said. "Most of the arguments concerning cost effectiveness are based on doubtful criteria, for teaching is a labour-intensive industry and must always be so."

Contraction of education as fewer pupils entered school would lead to an older and more static teaching force. "Promotion will be less easy," said Miss Blake.

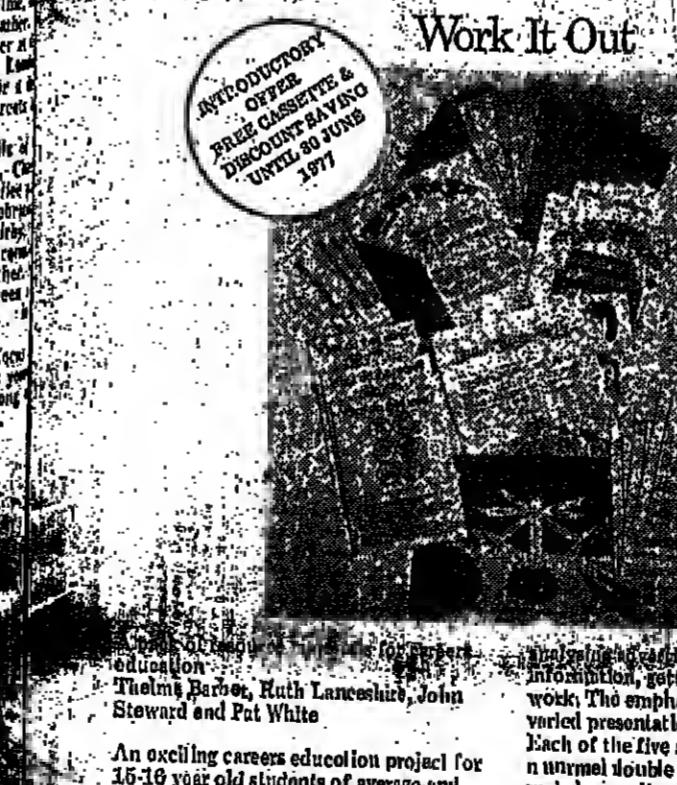
It was a scandal that so many young people were out of work. After living poorly especially on the brink of their working lives, many of last year's school leavers are still waiting to find work, and the longer this scandal lasts the

more complete will be their lifelong frustration and bitterness—surely not a good preparation for the demands that will be made on the nation's work force of tomorrow and we know that in only a few weeks they will be joined by this year's leavers in their search for work," she went on. "Are we really bringing our imagination to bear on this misfortune? What help are we giving them? What are we doing to match the existence of redundant premises and unemployed teachers with the need of the school leaver without a job? Shall we leave the resources to rot or are there going to be song?"

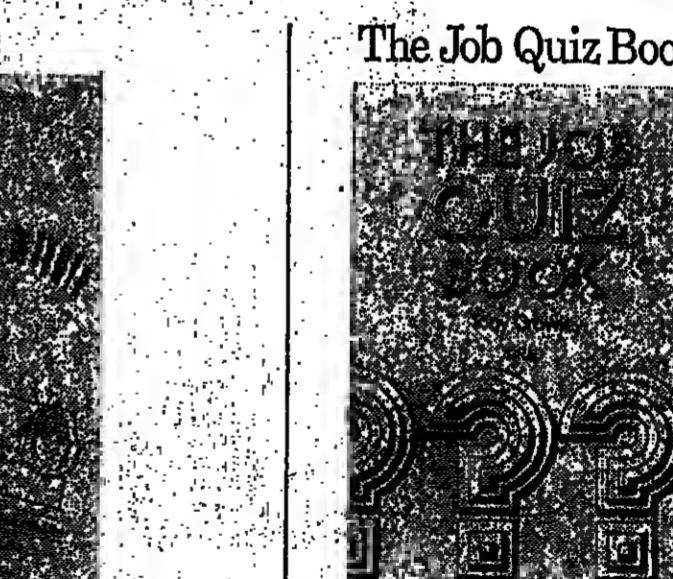
Miss Blake also said it was scandalous that the number of unoccupied school places was so low, particularly in some of the most disadvantaged areas. At the other end of the spectrum, day release was still only available for 50 per cent of young workers and even less so for girls.

4 NEW CAREERS EDUCATION TITLES FROM CRAC

Work It Out



The Job Quiz Book



Time Between

A guide to work and service before, during and after higher education
Introduction by Harry Lee and Nell Scott

The latest, updated edition of a handy and practical guide for sixth formers and students, previously entitled *While You Wait*. It outlines the many opportunities for voluntary service and paid employment at home and abroad which are open to young people between leaving school and starting on a course of higher education, or immediately after graduation, or even during their academic courses.

Decide For Yourself

Bill Law, Senior Fellow at the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling

A new, updated edition of an established careers education programme for fifth and sixth year students, designed to help them towards a career choice that is based on a sound knowledge of their own personalities, abilities, needs, interests and values.

In the new package, the self-assessment and job-assessment exercises have been removed from the *Careerbook* and assembled in a self-contained *Workbook* which the student can fill in as the programme develops.

In its new format *Decide For Yourself* is tailor-made for its purpose to set young people thinking objectively about themselves and to assist them towards that self-understanding which is the prerequisite of good career choice.

An exciting careers education project for 15-16 year old students of average and below-average ability developed by a London careers team and thoroughly tested within the inner London Education Authority. Designed for flexible use within a normal careers timetable, the pack divides into five sections focusing on assessment, fitting people to jobs,

individualized assessments and obtaining a job, and starting a job. The emphasis throughout is on varied presentation and purposeful activity. Each of the five sections can be filled into a normal double period, though this can be varied according to the age and ability of the pupils. The Teacher's Notes contain suggestions for follow-up activities and methods of using the material. An optional audio cassette contains interviews with young people who have left school and have started work in various occupations, and provides send the information about schemes of protection in the Windsor area.

The Team is now producing a leaflet for teachers detailing environmental organisations that between them provide information on 25 environmental areas. It is available from The Conservation Trust, 246, London Road, Barnes, Reading, but send a big stamped addressed envelope.

To: Publications Department, Hodder & Stoughton, 246 London Road, Barnes, London SW13 9AD.

- CRAC Publications Catalogue
- Work It Out (further information)
- The Job Quiz Book (further information)
- Decide For Yourself (inspection copy)

Name
Postcode
School address
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Signed
Date

CRAC

Why the moon quakes and Venus rumbles

The exploration of the solar system continues, creating us many new puzzles and new explanations. Here is a jumble of hints gathered from the current journals, and showing new light on the moon, Venus and Uranus.

First, the moon. The first Apollo missions to the moon were equipped with small seismometers, with the result that there are now records of moonquakes going back to early 1970. The seismic instruments were, in fact, designed by a group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology led by Dr Frank Press who is now President Carter's new science adviser, and a group of his colleagues left behind at MIT now seem to have proved conclusively that moonquakes are caused by tidal stresses set up in the moon by the earth and the sun (Science, May 27).

Most moonquakes, it appears, occur between 600 and 1,000 kilometres below the surface of the moon. One striking feature of the pattern of moon quakes is that there tend to be foci within the body of the moon at which moonquakes tend to recur, and by now, no fewer than 18 such foci have been identified by means of the four automatic seismic stations left on the moon by the Apollo missions 12, 14, 15 and 18.

The notion that tidal forces might be responsible was suggested us soon as it became apparent that there is a sharp difference between the pattern of moonquakes and of earthquakes (which are mostly caused by the convection in the earth's crust which has responded to continental drift). And so what has been done at MIT is to calculate the pattern of tidal stresses within the moon and to correlate this with the occurrence of moonquakes.

The result is straightforward and convincing. Tidal stresses in the moon are determined almost entirely by the earth's gravitational pull.

Although it might be thought that the moon would have long since accommodated itself to these stresses by rotating on its axis more or less with the speed of the earth's revolution, in its orbit (as seen from the moon), that is not

so, operates at centimetres wavelengths, have produced radar pictures of the surface of Venus which raise all kinds of awkward questions.

An account of the work (see in Science for May 27) shows several large surface features whose co-existence cannot easily be reconciled. The most startling of the features now observed is a huge trough running north-south on the surface of the planet for at least 1,400 kilometers. The trough is 150 kilometers across and two kilometres deep.

At the northern end the radar images suggest that there may be a long chain of volcanoes. At the other end the trough divides into two branches. In the south, as seems, Uranus, like Saturn, is surrounded by a pattern of rings.

To be precise, there are five of them, lying between 44,000 and 52,000 kilometers from the centre of the planet (which has a radius of nearly 26,000 kilometers). The rings are, however, much less conspicuous than in the case of Saturn, both the groups of astronomers who have observed the surface, which suggests an explanation for the depth of moonquakes.

In other words, it exists suggests that Venus, like the earth, may have a fluid interior which is still reworking the surface of the planet.

All this is hard to reconcile with some of the other new observations, and in particular with the appearance among the radar images of large circular structures which have all the appearance of being compact craters, or the structures on the moon, for their continued existence implies that at least those parts of the surface of Venus have been unbroken by major episodes of erosion, or even reworking within the surface crust of Venus.

And, to make things worse, it turns out that there are also some huge volcanic features, resembling those now known on the surface of Mars, and suggesting that some parts of the crust of Venus are exceedingly stable, but that there is a fluid mantle beneath which can occasionally punch holes in the surface, building exceptionally large volcanic structures in the process. Venus, it is clear, is not so much the earth's sister planet as its homosister.

Venus is a bigger puzzle than the moon, chiefly because the surface is hidden by dense clouds and thus cannot be observed directly. Now, however, two people at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, using a radiotelescope at the Goldstone Tracking Station, which

is about 70 kilometers across, but there is a chance that it may be just within the range of a powerful telescope. There is something else to look for:

Philip Venning on a boffin's dream of beaming educational programmes round the world

Watch this space...

Anyone who believes that the benefits of the American space programme fizzled out with non-stick frying pans, pocket calculators and a few handfuls of moon-dust should talk to Dr Kerry Joels. The next stage of the programme—the space shuttle—should have an enormous impact on everyday life and could eventually transform the education system, Dr Joels believes.

Dr Joels, on the staff of Oklahoma State University, but attached to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), is looking into the implications for education of the space shuttle. He confidently predicts a day perhaps as little as 15 years—when conventional classroom teaching at school and adult level will be supplemented by a cheap, worldwide, many channelled version of the Open University, relayed off gigantic satellites constructed in space.

The importance of the space shuttle is that it will allow most of the space vehicle to be used over and over again, at a stroke reducing the cost of lifting material into space from about £600 a lb to pealed endlessly, at virtually no

cost, and at times of day convenient to every kind of student.

Dr Joels also believes other domestic hardware such as telephones, cassette recorders, and electric typewriters, increasingly found in homes in the West, could be adapted to supplement the educational broadcasts. The typewriter and telephone could be altered to act as a home computer terminal, giving the student access to a central computer in which teaching material for courses might be stored.

The computer might also provide programmed learning directly tied in to the course, with questions and answers coming up on a modified television screen.

Dr Joels does not believe that such a system, if it ever came about, would replace conventional classroom teaching. But it would be bound to affect it.

You no longer had to rely on someone else to send the message; you could do it directly yourself. With a big enough satellite and sufficient channels, it might be possible for a lecturer to deliver a normal lecture, and then transmit edited extracts for his students to use for revision.

Application forms and further details from: The Short Courses Office, The School of Education, Reading University, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.

Entertainments

LEEDS PLAYHOUSE
Carver Street, Leeds 42111 (10 am-8 pm)

Wednesday, June 15-Saturday, June 25th

GHOST TRAIN TO CORNELIAN BAY
by Jules Dale

the premiere of an exciting play for 7 to 12-year-olds

Directed by Michael Allambrugh

Times: 10 am (Sat 10.30), 2 pm (Sat 2.30)

Language report reveals plight of Asian women

Up to 60 per cent of Asian women in Britain speak little or no English, many have no chance of learning and some have no desire to do so in case it means losing their cultural identity, according to a Community Relations Commission report published in the current issue of *Nature* (May 26), in striking agreement with each other. First, it seems, *Uranus*, like *Saturn*, is surrounded by a pattern of rings.

To be precise, there are five of them, lying between 44,000 and 52,000 kilometers from the centre of the planet (which has a radius of nearly 26,000 kilometers). The rings are, however, much less conspicuous than in the case of Saturn, both the groups of astronomers who have observed the surface, which suggests an explanation for the depth of moonquakes.

In other words, it exists suggests that Venus, like the earth, may have a fluid interior which is still reworking the surface of the planet.

All this is hard to reconcile with some of the other new observations, and in particular with the appearance among the radar images of large circular structures which have all the appearance of being compact craters, or the structures on the moon, for their continued existence implies that at least those parts of the surface of Venus have been unbroken by major episodes of erosion, or even reworking within the surface crust of Venus.

And, to make things worse, it turns out that there are also some huge volcanic features, resembling those now known on the surface of Mars, and suggesting that some parts of the crust of Venus are exceedingly stable, but that there is a fluid mantle beneath which can occasionally punch holes in the surface.

For the astronomers, this diagnosis will undoubtedly suggest all kinds of other accreditation observations. Because the rings are so much bigger than the planet, occultation involving the rings should be much more common than those in which the planet itself is involved.

For the astronauts, this diagnosis should be paid full attention to the earth's atmosphere, which is the most important area—family health.

Home tuition on an individual basis using volunteers has rightly been seen as a way of building up confidence, it says, but it should be used only as the first step towards attending special classes. Otherwise there is a danger of reinforcing the woman's sense of helplessness.

Meeting Their Needs: An account of language tuition schemes for ethnic minority women, Community Relations Commission, 15/16 Bedford Street, London WC2, 60p.

This object is estimated to be just 70 kilometers across, but there is a chance that it may be just within the range of a powerful telescope. There is something else to look for:

Slow learners at risk under mixed ability

A survey on mixed ability teaching and how it affects slow learners is being carried out by the National Association for Remedial Education.

The association admits that, in spite of the benefits of greater flexibility in teaching methods and the avoidance of labelling and stigma, mixed ability classes can result in failure and chaos. NARE lays the blame on schools that throw ill-prepared pupils into mixed ability groups. It stresses the need for sufficient range of back-up sources and teaching aids and importance of keeping records assessing children's progress.

It points out that teachers must take into account the organizational skill needed in joint programmes for children of different abilities.

Before a school decides to switch to mixed ability teaching, the association recommends that a majority of the staff must be in favour of the change; that sufficient time and opportunity must be given to staff discussion and in-service training; that enough money and resources should be provided and that there should be positive attitudes towards less able pupils.

The council's intention is to phase out all HND and HNC courses and replace them by

Study aims to identify basics

Study aims to identify basics

by Mark Jackson

The Training Services Agency is embarking on a study which will provide facts likely to affect the teaching of basic skills in secondary schools. The agency is trying to find out exactly what school leavers need to know in order to do various kinds of jobs.

Three education authorities, Liverpool, Leeds and Coventry, are cooperating with the TSA in the research, which is expected to take two or three years. Large numbers of teachers, employers, pupils, and young workers will be interviewed or asked to complete questionnaires from which analysis will try to establish, in particular, the kind of maths, reading and writing abilities that are required in specific jobs. Social and manipulative skills are also likely to be studied.

The Department of Education and Science was last week told about the planned study following the return to this country of TSA officials who have been examining similar projects in Canada. The inspectorate, too, has learnt of the plans through Dr Philip Samuel,

the HMI responsible for liaison with the agency. But the Schools Council team involved in the planning of the TSA has retained overall direction of the programme despite his move in the commission.

But he says that the idea for extending the research to basic skills teaching in schools came from an educationist—Mr Ken Atticoff, Liverpool's director of education. "He asked me one day what we could do to find out how schools could improve the marketability of their pupils, and the project developed from our discussions," said Mr Holland.

This concerned with the project in its early stages, but since September 1977, the Diploma in Education Management has been introduced as a wide ranging flexible course which offers people the opportunity to develop their management interests and skills within a broad based syllabus. The M.Sc. Course focuses on organisational development and implementation.

FULL-TIME COURSES IN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

SSRC BURSARIES Applications are invited for Social Science Research Council Bursaries which are offered for the one year full-time Diploma in Education Management Course.

SSRC STUDENTSHIPS Applications are also invited for Social Science Research Council Studentships which are offered for the half-time M.Sc. in Education Management course.

Both Bursaries and Studentships are available not only to senior men and women in schools, colleges and L.E.A.s who are unable to obtain a scholarship on salary, but also to those in the wider educational and allied fields. We invite applications, for example, from men and women occupying management or administrative positions in organisations which, broadly speaking, have educational or training functions: education, training or management positions in other organisations such as trades unions or voluntary organisations; and men and women on inter-professional boundaries.

The authority hopes to give priority to those who are going to have to find jobs under difficult circumstances; and if we are able to provide the resources then clearly we should do so.

Youth forum just for talking

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'Now we must be both red and expert'

In the wake of the downfall of the Gang of Four, China's leaders are emphasising the need for a "back to basics" movement in education. John Cleverley, recently in Peking, reports.

An unprecedented public airing of the deficiencies of China's educational development since the Cultural Revolution is under way. The Chinese have proved more willing critics of their much-vaunted "revolution in education" than most Western observers. Too often visitors to China have taken statements of purpose and intent as evidence of successful practice. Now the Chinese way, proposed by some as a model for Western and developing societies, is itself in process of major re-evaluation.

The process is part of a broader questioning. The opportunity to attribute failures to policy to the "Gang of Four" has brought many issues into the open. Because education was a sector where radical philosophy was strongly entrenched, it is in line for early remodelling.

At the top, red posters in Peking have demanded that the name of the first Minister of Education since the Cultural Revolution, Chang Jung Hsin, be cleared. Middle of the road Chou died from a stroke in mid-1976 allegedly following severe criticism from radical policy makers.

Open criticism of the post-Cultural Revolution school reforms could first be heard as long ago as January of last year, when to voice dissent was renukable and dangerous. Publicly unspoken critics like the university man Liu Ping, who claimed that university standards had fallen drastically, were pilloried as "rightists", "deviationist" and "anti-Party". Merit is now being disregarded in their analyses.

In many educational institutions loyalty to the radical line, the reporting of disloyalty, became routine to power. Sanctions applied fell little short of terrorism. A recent graduate of Peking Language Institute told me: "Their programmes were attractive, but their actions were 'hot'. This helps explain why many of the young, who could well have supported them, did not. Then the radicals' own policy of disposing graduates over China after training bore the effect of renewing their power base.

Many leading supporters of the Four in educational institutions have been purged; teachers have been stood down, political groups disbanded. At the Foreign Language Institute, part of the Joint Criticism Group of Peking University and Tsinghua, which led the attack on Liu Ping and the university conservatives, has been named "mouthpiece of the Gang of Four". The Philosophy Department, at that university, reported declassified.

A major reinterpretation of the Cultural Revolution is under way. The bloodshed of its closing years is openly alluded to; the young of that period are called "tools of the Four", who "reballed against the proletariat". And at campus meetings, the Four are described as "the commanders of the civil war during the Cultural Revolution". There is talk of "paying the blood debt". A re-appraisal of the pre-1966 generation is implied in present directives, where the worth of the old cadre is consistently reaffirmed.

In a discussion in Sian I was told: "Chairman Mao's revolutionary education has not been well carried out. During the last 10 years of experimentation in education we were not allowed to come to any conclusion. When we spoke of red and expert last year we meant red only—now we mean red and expert. The Gang of Four's policy was unscientific. What is required now is relative stability. We must take Lenin's admonition 'to learn education'; must be demanding again."

The change in policy is not regarded as a deviation from Mao's

principles. It is seen as making good practices previously subsumed by the Four. Nonetheless, many teachers were never happy about the return of the Cultural Revolution, and would willingly revert in the ways in which they were taught or trained.

Hence some Chinese see the direction of change as a return to better days. Others herald it as improving and refining the existing Maoist revolution. The former view is stronger among the old, the latter among the young. Although the alignments are not mutually exclusive, they represent two strong poles. The crucial dilemma is: will the shifts in policy necessarily bring the clerks luck; or can they serve basic Marxist principles?

Even so, self-criticism sessions are increasingly regulated. Pupils are discouraged from voicing contrary opinions in class; the number of these sessions is being reduced—some to only twice a term; and they are being scheduled following examinations, or after the introduction of new teaching plans.

Some agreement on the expertise of the teacher can be read into the national release of the film "Song of the Gardener", based on a Shang opera, it tells how a patient teacher and an older girl rehabilitated a difficult child. The film was shown previously on the grounds that the female teacher had insured the role of party secretary (although it was made clear that she herself was a party member). I was told, too, that there were objections to the teacher's independent rule, "intellectuals cannot lead".

The main thrust of Chinese education, work experience, is under review. Not is there any certainty that knowledge learned there can be used in future career, for students are mostly directed to courses.

In order to improve study facilities, some communities are allowing extended study hours; and some English language graduates have been given the same guarantee.

A wider of labour laws in the last five years has given union safety stewards the right to halt production and take part in factory planning, put two union officials

on every shift, and half the time spent on industrial studies.

With the adoption of a recurrent education policy by the government, increasing attention has been focused on adult studies. Since the beginning of last year, duanxue have been subsidized to go out and canvas adult tuition at workplaces and train tutor-organizers. The idea is to try to reach potential students who have not made use of existing tuition possibilities.

Those taking part are eligible for grants and loans to compensate for loss of earnings during studies.

Support is distributed by 24 county adult education boards, whose membership comprises five trade unions and four county council nominees.

The unions are also actively involved—as employers—in planning courses at the vocational technical college. These were established two years ago to give workers with at least four years' experience in one of six key industries the chance to sharpen their technical and administrative skills during an 18-month period of paid leave of absence from work.

Most think that work programmes would be more effective. Programmes could start stanling around on being allocated menial jobs, teachers are criticized for arriving inappropriate dress, and factories complain of the burden of finding jobs for unskilled youngsters, and of disruption to output.

There is a problem in the growing independence of factories. The electric motor factory in Nanking Middle School No. 16 operates on an external budget, employs its own workers, and puts its surplus into the firm's bank account.

The post-Cultural Revolution forms which draconian rules of "closed classes", replacing traditional methods, are still required. Two girls in the middle school learned little last year in some schools because of the day's period of study.

Young people sent to the countryside return to local factories, or other jobs within a few years. While the policy has enabled China to avoid the problems of the under-employment of educated youth which plagued developing countries, coercion is still required. Two girls refused to leave home and applied for work at a nearby factory were simply offered an alternative employment. Some disaffected workers without culture like Shanghai where there are reports of them stripping and retelling them.

The main breakthrough was this January, when the law on co-determination came into force. This gives the unions the right to negotiate on the whole range of management decisions at all levels. It also puts management under an obligation to supply or find out information about company operations needed by the unions.

Remembering the nationwide strike of workers in 1966, the unions' leaders have turned to education not only to enable local officials to make their power felt by management, but to maintain the support of an industry-wide strike.

Government subsidies to trade union schools began in 1970 and union safety stewards and company members taking time off to study are compensated for loss of earnings. At present, there are about 105,000 safety stewards and 6,000 board members. In addition, a special grant is given to help them in analysing and solving problems.

The largest union, Landorganisation (LO), which represents 1,900,000 blue collar workers, runs 150 residential colleges, each with one-third of members of local boards for each group of institutions within a region. Moreover, five of the 13 members of the Government agency for higher education responsible for central planning are union nominees.

Community interests, including trade unions, will also make up one-third of members of local boards for each group of institutions within a region. Moreover, five of the 13 members of the Government agency for higher education responsible for central planning are union nominees.

At the university level the unions will also take a role in planning tuition content and curriculum details. Each study course is to have its own board and this will be made up of equal numbers of students, teachers and employer representatives.

One year after the official introduction of television in South Africa by the South African Broadcasting Corporation nearly 19,000 while pupils in a selected number of schools in the Transvaal and the Cape are being utilized as part of a long-term survey aimed at establishing the social and cultural influence of the medium.

Launched in 1974 by the Communications Media Research Institute of the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, the seven-year survey is believed to be unique of its kind in the western world.

Due to the spread of industrial training and the greater efforts that should be made to attract the 30 per cent of teenagers who fall to continue schooling.

They also want to use better vocational guidance and practical training in comprehensive schools.

Pupils should be made aware of working life, the work of safety stewards, how workers can be involved in decision-making, the role of trade unions and industrial democracy.

There is little or no question about this and from next year, when the SIA reform on the internal work of schools is introduced, unions, employers and schools are to set up joint committees to strengthen ties between school and working life.

The length of schooling continues as an issue, especially in tertiary institutions. "Can you tell me," an official in Sian said, "how Chinese medical schools can teach in three to four years what used to require six to eight years when the present course includes traditional medicine as well?"

"The struggle is very complex," he continued. "The Chinese young remain very much knowledge, and declared they would soon be phased out. Such statements were bitterly contested by a young Shanghai graduate whom I reported them. An attempt to pay off the 'blood debt' is a tradition of the pre-1966 generation, where the worth of the old cadre is consistently reaffirmed."

In a discussion in Sian I was told: "Chairman Mao's revolutionary education has not been well carried out. During the last 10 years of experimentation in education we were not allowed to come to any conclusion. When we spoke of red and expert last year we meant red only—now we mean red and expert. The Gang of Four's policy was unscientific. What is required now is relative stability. We must take Lenin's admonition 'to learn education'; must be demanding again."

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Mike Duckenfield on the growing role of Sweden's trade unions in education

Managing to teach the workers

STOCKHOLM

After decades of limiting their concern to wages, working conditions and production, Swedish trade unions are demanding, and beginning to get, a bigger say in education. Their future influence is certain to grow considerably, not just over adult studies, but in schools and universities.

Although the government has come a long way towards financing adult studies, or legislating so that employers and unions would ultimately like to do, the over-50s studies planned out of production through an employers' education fund like that introduced two years ago to finance other adult studies.

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Awareness of their potential role is being awakened by three recent trends: the move towards a national recurrent education policy, the vocationalization of school and apprenticeship grant for pupils.

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LETTERS

Are you my student, asked the visitor

Sir.—I am well used to introducing students on teaching practice to the college tutors who arrive to supervise them and find they have frequently never met each other before. A new twist to the procedure occurred this morning and it may appeal to others as worthy of further development.

At 10 am today we were as short staffed as ever, and I was in my well accustomed place with the fourth year non-examination class. They were painstakingly pursuing their social studies projects and had just done large and elaborate drawings of our local war memorial and were by then logging the names of the dead and worn noting the similarity of local sur-

names now compared with 1918, and so on.

A very pleasant gentleman from our nearest college of education arrived, quite diffidently, in the classroom, and seeing our drawings spread before him, asked my name. I answered truthfully. He said he presumed I was the design student he had come to visit and asked if he could look around. I let him.

My staff are all hillarious cross with me for not going through with the deception to its ultimate end. I have told them, however, that I chickened out after few minutes of the inspection because I was more than sure that our war memorials would stand up to scrutiny. When at last I confessed my

true role the gentlemen went very pale and fled the school within 10 minutes.

None of us had ever met the gentleman before and now we fear we never will. One of the students said he believed he had seen him on the college refectory committee. I do apologize to this gentleman for the trick I played on him: it was quite spontaneous. But I really ought to warn his colleagues that now we have had time to plan things we really do intend to lay a grand deception next time. If they do not know who the students are whom they have come to see.

C. D. COOPER,
Headmaster,
Farnor's School, Fairford,
Gloucestershire.

Living without the cane

Sir.—In my issue with Mr. White (May 27) over his allegations of "naughty, sickly and insipid sentimentiality" on the part of the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, His assertion as to the usefulness of the cane has no supporting experimental evidence; indeed there is considerable evidence to the contrary.

There are many arguments in favour of the retention of corporal punishment, some of which are much more valid than that Mr. White chooses to speak of.

For one thing, continuing to use of corporal punishment would undoubtedly undermine the authority of many excellent established teachers and render their personal disciplinary methods ineffective.

At the same time, however, there are many teachers who are guilty of exercising a self-fulfilling prophecy in maintaining that the cane is a truly effective disciplinary sanction. Such teachers are loath to experiment with alternative methods.

Less widespread use of the cane in recent years has itself little to do with the reported increases in insubordination and rate of delinquency. Those are consequences of trends in society as a whole. It deliberately use the word society in its widest sense. School discipline

discipline is a complex problem, and abolition or retention of corporal punishment cannot be considered in isolation.

The abandonment of the use of the cane, in the experience of those schools which have taken such a step, involves the total re-thinking of not only school discipline, but also of the entire school structure, organization and teaching methods.

In the case of many schools, especially those operating on such outmoded principles as those of Mr. White, such a re-thinking is long overdue.

If Mr. White believes that lock of "proper punishment" is the form of the cane automatically produces respect, then he need only look at the educational system of any Eastern European country, none of which allows corporal punishment, and whose children show probably more respect for their teachers than anywhere else in the world.

P. J. WOODWARD,
Newcastle University.

Law unclear
on allowing
pupil governors

Sir.—While I agree with much of the article by Tony Travers on pupil governors (April 22) I think he goes too far when he says there are no legal obstacles to pupils of any age and that educational bodies would win any court case brought by the Department of Education and Science.

The fact is that there is no statutory provision which deals with this particular question nor is there any reported decision of the courts which is directly on the point. The indirect cases are few and many years old. In my view, therefore, including the Secretary of State, is in a position to give a firm opinion particularly in relation to county schools. In the case of voluntary aided or special agreement schools the appointment of an infant is likely to be invalid because the governors have general financial obligations particularly with regard to the premises and sometimes in connection with the finances and the funds of the school.

The only thing that can be said with certainty is that the sooner the present uncertainty is resolved by legislation the better for all concerned. Let us hope the Taylor Committee supports the need for clarification.

D. M. HART,
Solicitor to the National Association of Head Teachers,
46 Bedford Square,
London WC1B 3DX.

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For further information, apply to the Admissions Secretary, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QH. The closing date for applications is 15th December, 1977.

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Playgroups the place for real partnership with parents

Sir.—In "No Common Ground" (May 27) Barbara Tizard gives a penetrating analysis of parent-teacher relationships in nursery schools. Although these relationships are almost always pleasant, I do apologize to this gentleman for the trick I played on him: it was quite spontaneous. But I really ought to warn his colleagues that now we have had time to plan things we really do intend to lay a grand deception next time. If they do not know who the students are whom they have come to see.

I do not usually take part in playgroups because they have a burning desire to take a greater part in their children's education. They are doing, however, what the parents are doing, there exists an enormous gulf between what the teachers want their pre-school children to do with other children as

Ms. Tizard notes, and in the area where they live the playgroups provide the only facility for this. And they get into this partnership, not because this is such as ideological meeting, but because the other parents and staff feel their help not only for fund raising and mending equipment, but to help with the actual day-to-day work with the children during play sessions.

Out of necessity comes the desire to know more about what they are already doing, and hence the urge to attend first short initial courses, and then longer, more substantial ones, to learn more about young children.

Frankly, the enormous progress in parent education that is happening through the playgroup movement is largely unheralded by the educational press. Perhaps this is because playgroups are not part of any professional staff, but through playgroup courses attended alike by staff and by many mothers. Both have had a pressing need to know more about child development because they were actively responsible for the day-to-day running of a playgroup.

Almost all playgroup work, both running groups and running, is done part-time, largely unpaid or semi-paid, by people without professional ambitions. They do it for their own children and for the children in their own neighbourhood, and national recognition is of little consequence to them. But an understanding of what is going on would be of inestimable value to workers like Barbara Tizard.

Parental involvement can lead to a greater understanding of the two meanings of education for the under-fives, but only where that involvement carries some real responsibility for what is happening in the children's group, and that is true partnership between staff and parents.

MARGARET HANTON,
8 Gilkes Crescent,
London SE11.

Official recognition, please

Sir.—Your article on parental involvement came as a shock when my association was submitting its comments to the DES for the regional conferences and the Great Debate.

The association made the following suggestions which it considers could be implemented in the Nuffield chemistry scheme.

● Parents should, from the outset, be drawn into any arrangements which the DES makes affecting educational provision. The Department could begin by drawing parents into consultations with I.A.S.E. and teachers associations concerning a review of curricular arrangements.

● The DES should keep a register of parents' associations and groups which are being formed, and add to it, in Stage II of the course, a section on experiment sheets which is of little value in the absence of a teacher's guide, or the two-pupil books which are needed for this part of the course. Stage II constitutes about 75 per cent of teaching time in the O level scheme and their apparently innocuous suggestions could mark the end of our association.

● All circulars, press notices, reports on education, and other relevant material should be sent at time of publication to those on the

register. It would appear that the only people not to receive details of "Guidelines on the closure of schools" are the parents whose children's schools may be closed.

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● The DES should establish a permanent section for liaison and communication with parents' associations and groups.

Those suggestions could mark the end of our association.

JOHN PHILLIPS,
Livedown Association of Croydon
Parents and Parents' Associations.

We must hope that many of the 100,000 or so pupils who are now following the Nuffield chemistry course are using either asbestos fibre or benzene in their experiments since the use of both substances is now forbidden. Neverthe less, they are suggested for use in class experiments in "The Sample Scheme". Stages I and II, first published all those (11) years ago!

M. R. PIKE,
20 Church Drive,
Aylesbury.

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Sport



Swimmer

scoop the Czech

by Stanley Levy

Britain's Green Skinned swimmers have won international recognition, world leaders, world records, and an almost collection of medals—silver and 13 bronze,

although a number of them from the omission from the agenda Cheryl Brazendale, the Great Debate, mixed ability teaching by O level, is among the most controversial debate.

In six events the British pressurised with renewed vigour. Yet against the challenge that how pupils should be grouped have swimmers from East received attention for more than half a dozen, Poland, the Soviets, and Czechoslovakia.

Streaming is not, as is sometimes supposed, a new idea, endowed with a venerable pedigree. The Park Street, it too, had to be nurtured as an answer, West Midlands, innovation in its time. The Board of the best foreign competition in 1927 recommended a reclassification of the Under-16 system, in which "backward, ordinary quick pupils" (note the lack of "lazy")

The most controversial phenomenon were to be identified, separated and taught by appropriate methods. Tree High School, Moreton, Twenty years later evidence of doubt gained one of each.

Miss Prickett, in *Inspectors' Schools* (1945), wondered cautiously, "is it really whether" grading on this basis may

in 67.5sec. ever appear as desirable as it

now is?"

Malcolm Lewis, 18-year-old British Open Youth Golf champion, has been awarded the second UGS sports scholarship at Bath University.

scholarship, the only one of its kind in the country, enables a student with outstanding sports ability to spend an extra year at the university to concentrate on his or her particular sport without affecting academic studies.

The freestyle, which has been introduced, for good reasons

(Ashton-in-Makerfield) aims and objectives have been inappropriately differentiated, so that there is

more concern about what is happening to the clever, sweep success, average and below average ability. The

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Mixed feelings

Over half of our comprehensive schools have now opted for some form of mixed ability grouping.

Yet the topic, highlighted by recent critical statements from the Inspectorate, remains as controversial as ever. Margaret Reid,

Principal Research Officer of the current NFER Mixed Ability Teaching Project, tries here to unravel some of the complex questions of ideology, organization and evaluation which have been overlooked in the current debate

Statements on mixed ability teaching may derive from experiences in any of these situations. There is wide divergence as to what is being mixed, and great variation in the mixing process itself. The practical and conceptual diversity cannot be swept away by the adoption of alternative terms: "heterogeneous" ability groups contrasted with "homogeneous" groups gets us no further. Any group may be described as heterogeneous just as many may be called mixed; again the essential differences lie in the range and distribution of abilities.

"Unstreaming" and "non-streaming", too, cover a wide range of teaching environments, determined again by the catchment of the school and the methods used to unstream or non-stream. Nor does confusion end with the nature of the composition of groups; there is an agreement as to what constitutes mixed ability teaching, as opposed to any other kind.

Some draw a sharp distinction between teaching mixed ability groups, and mixed ability teaching. The latter may be seen as "any form of teaching which involves the teacher working with individuals rather than groups" or, contrarily, "virtually synonymous with group work, its virtue lying in the experience it provides of cooperative group endeavour".

It is difficult to see, then, how generalised statements by proponents and antagonists of this mode of organization can be interpreted. It is perhaps less difficult to see why they are made. They are attempts to answer the question which for many lies at the heart of any discussion of mixed ability teaching, namely: "Do children learn as well as they would if they were taught in classes containing a narrower range of ability?" (i.e. classes which are streamed, setted or banded).

This looks like the sort of question to which research should be able to provide answers. Like many of the apparently "key" questions in education, however, it presents the investigator with a daunting task. Despite its apparently simple format there lie lurking many more questions, the answers to which are dependent on people's objectives in education and society, and the criteria by which they assess whether such objectives have been achieved.

The technical difficulties in answering comparative questions of this kind are well known, and some have been demonstrated in recent research in primary education. The problem is to disentangle from an almost endless list of variables—home, school, teacher and classroom—which is relevant to a child's learning.

It is not surprising that studies which have sought to compare streamed and unstreamed groups have been inconclusive—a fact too readily glossed over by some advocates of mixed ability teaching. Research evidence has been either conflicting or inconclusive, and studies have frequently failed to take account of teaching content and method; the measurement of product has not been accompanied by the study of process.

This is demonstrated in two British studies: Barker Lunn's (1970) study of children in streamed and unstreamed primary schools, and Newbold's (1975) research of Banbury School, in Oxfordshire, in the general tenor of their findings: few significant differences on academic measures, and more favourable attitudes to school and peers from average and less able children in unstreamed classes. But those results were from clear-cut cases.

Newbold found that differences between one streamed class and another, and between one unstreamed class and another, were generally greater than differences between the streamed and the unstreamed groups. The validity of Barker Lunn's approach, where the emphasis was also on measurement of product, may be questioned by the fact that, when she

Continued on next page

Fiona Glen
Group work is often seen as essential to mixed ability teaching—but how can teachers evaluate what goes on in such groups?

defies resolution: the relationship

between ability and attainment is one which has bedevilled psychologists from the outset. Important factors determining that relationship may be motivation, attitudes, specific skills; "mixed ability" is often confused with mixed ability individuals, mixed motivation, and, as we have seen, mixed attainment.

This is demonstrated in the practices

Mixed ability groups may be formed on the basis of pupils' scores on psychometric tests (i.e. ability), but frequently these are supplemented or supplanted by primary teachers' assessments (ability, motivation, attitudes, specific skills); "mixed ability" is often confused with mixed ability individuals, mixed motivation, and, as we have seen, mixed attainment.

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ranging of whatever is meant by ability then would have been the case had some form of solative grouping been applied.

The actual ability mix in these classes will, however, vary according to the school's catchment and the policies and procedures employed to allocate children to classes. The immense variety of intake of those schools designated as comprehensive was well documented in the first NFER survey of comprehensive education, and marked differences persist.

It is not only in these schools that groups described as mixed ability are found. When the present NFER project was first publicized and schools invited to supply details of the form and extent of their mixed ability grouping, we received numerous responses from grammar and secondary moderns. Moreover, schools identified themselves as having mixed ability groups if they employed unstreamed groups within broad bands of ability, or unstreamed groups for all but the ablest or least gifted children.

The NFER also covered the situation where unstreamed groups were used for parts of the curriculum sometimes described as "non-academic", but selected groups for subjects such as mathematical languages and scientific

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20 Books/Education/Philosophy

Gosh, no regrets

Harry Judge on Dartington Hall

Progressive Retreat. A sociological study of Dartington Hall School and some of its former pupils. By Maurice Puri. Cambridge University Press £4.90. 522 pp. 11824 4.

Dartington, the most luxuriant of a familiar group of progressive boarding schools, has for long fascinated left-wing intellectuals and right-wing sceptics. In its golden days Blundell with Tapore, Bertrand Russell, H. G. Wells, Kipling, Martin, Barber, Woottton, Aldous Huxley et hoc genus omne took the Great Western line from Paddington to Totnes. Wide-eyed but unswayable locals whispered of strange goings on: hardly surprising when one of the pupils collected flies to eat and another crocheted "an extraordinary garment, almost like chamelein, with a pair of eye-holes and nothing else, which he used to wear when he was bicycling".

This book seems to have provoked a minor storm among the Dartington trustees, who felt so strongly about the misrepresentation of holy tights by a sociologist who had not even visited the school that they caused a second, and very brief, introduction to the book to be withdrawn on their behalf by Michael Young and Maurice Ash. I very much doubt whether they would have tolerated the confused and shrill piece which they have in fact written will do the name of Dartington no good at all. There are weaknesses in this book, but very few surprises and certainly no insights.

Most of the book is serviceable and straightforward account of the intellectual (and ideological) origins of the school, an outline narrative of its stormy history under the hypocrisies of leadership of Bill Curry from 1931 to 1957, and an analysis of the reaction that they caused in some, and very briefly introduced to the book to be withdrawn on their behalf by Michael Young and Maurice Ash. I very much doubt whether they would have tolerated the confused and shrill piece which they have in fact written will do the name of Dartington no good at all. There are weaknesses in this book, but very few surprises and certainly no insights.

cern with the autonomous interests of the child himself; an ambition to produce a better, more compassionate and more peaceful society throughout the world.

He makes it clear—and it is, perhaps, clarifications of this kind that most irritated the tender trustees—that, whatever it might have been in theory, Dartington was not a boarding school for children, but a boarding school for adults.

Incidentally, he had already fallen foul of at least one other school.

The more picturesque paroxysm might have had principles directly in line with those of Curry and the Elimists.

But many noted Conservatives, went to church, and doubtless experienced a mixture of pretence and gull in sending their children to a school which cared as totally for them.

Of the quality of that care there is no doubt, and this book dutifully records it. Equally audible, although, no doubt, less welcome to Anna cars, is the message that repudiate—whatever the strength and beauty of their commitment to openness and freedom—develop their own subtle mechanisms of control, that pupil democracy becomes a well-hidden means that power rests in the moral persuasiveness of great authorities or the manipulative intervention of an over-present head. These are the facts of microsociological life.

Nor is there anything surprising (nor to my mind, hostile) in the claim—based upon a pitifully small sample—that some former pupils found difficulty in adjusting themselves successfully to the career demands of a competitive society. Even so, at least one of them became an Adulair. Curry gave a distinctive flavour to his own brand of progressivism by insisting that the school should give to its brightest pupils the glittering prizes of Cambridge. In that particular context, the primitive Dartington was never very successful—but then, given as other and more coherent foundations, perhaps it had no right to be.

This book has some peculiar weaknesses. The most fundamental is an uncertainty about precisely what, or whom, it is for. The strong-

Man behind The Times

Peter Hebblethwaite

An Humble Heaven. By William Rees-Mogg. Hamish Hamilton £3.50. 241 896924.

There are two sorts of collar. The "captain on the bridge" who has to scrutinise everything that goes into the paper; they are consequently breathless and over-worked.

The "chairman of the heard" who trusts his subordinates, and leaves many decisions to them, and devotes much time to writing.

Rees-Mogg is not content to muddle along in the land of Donskoy. He uses his influence to affect our behaviour for good or ill. What we think is not a matter of indifference. He praises Christianity first of all because it is an answer to the riddle of human existence, and secondly because it works.

He makes people better, more compassionate, more impartial, more living, more other-centred. His ideas do not have such beneficial effects. Having sketched this empirical case for the truth of Christianity, Rees-Mogg counter-attacks.

A world without God, he tells us, is more sentimental, more serious, more cruel. In his version of the world the unbeliever is not the devilish. He has a case to answer. He will not find it easy.

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He makes people better, more compassionate, more impartial, more living, more other-centred. His ideas do not have such beneficial effects. Having sketched this empirical case for the truth of Christianity, Rees-Mogg counter-attacks.

A world without God, he tells us, is more sentimental, more serious, more cruel. In his version of the world the unbeliever is not the devilish. He has a case to answer. He will not find it easy.

Of the quality of that care there is no doubt, and this book dutifully records it. Equally audible, although, no doubt, less welcome to Anna cars, is the message that repudiate—whatever the strength and beauty of their commitment to openness and freedom—develop their own subtle mechanisms of control, that pupil democracy becomes a well-hidden means that power rests in the moral persuasiveness of great authorities or the manipulative intervention of an over-present head. These are the facts of microsociological life.

Nor is there anything surprising

(nor to my mind, hostile) in the claim—based upon a pitifully small sample—that some former pupils found difficulty in adjusting themselves successfully to the career demands of a competitive society. Even so, at least one of them became an Adulair. Curry gave a distinctive flavour to his own brand of progressivism by insisting that the school should give to its brightest pupils the glittering prizes of Cambridge. In that particular context, the primitive Dartington was never very successful—but then, given as other and more coherent foundations, perhaps it had no right to be.

This book has some peculiar weaknesses. The most fundamental is an uncertainty about precisely what, or whom, it is for. The strong-

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22 Resources

Mathematics for other disciplines

by Paul McGee



The Continuing Mathematics Project
Produced by the Schools Council and others.

14 units at 40p each or a reference set at £6 plus £1 postage, or 20p in stamps for the teacher's guide and sample materials.
Distributed by Longmans Resource Unit, 9/11 The Shambles, York.

These 14 units are the first of 53 designed as self-teaching materials for students in the 16-19 age group who need mathematical techniques in other disciplines such as geography, economics or biology. The units usually consist of a booklet of between 12 and 32 pages although some are longer.

Each unit of programmed learning has well defined objectives and lists the knowledge and equipment needed to complete it. Many have pretenses to enable the student to see which parts of the unit need to be studied and will have post-tests to check whether the knowledge has been assimilated. Each unit provides about two hours' work and

detail of their planning will enable many hard-pressed mathematics departments to offer the service courses which are now needed because of developments in many syllabuses which previously did not use mathematical techniques.

The units are arranged in three categories. Category 1 units aim to provide revision of elementary work; category 2 to arouse interest in areas not generally covered in school; and category 3 form sequences of units teaching mainly statistics and calculus.

The first batch consists of: the currency and its influence; standard form; the category 2 units on Linear Programming; Hypothesis Testing (3 units); Descriptive Statistics (4 units, 1 and 2 require tape filmstrip sequences); Chi-Squared Test; and Correlation. The probability and statistics units are all category 3 although two of them are incorrectly numbered.

The books are well designed and should meet the needs of the non-mathematical student. In trials they have been found to be popular with a much larger audience than the original target group and any mathematics department could benefit from the well-planned approach. They are suitable for a variety of ages and abilities and need not be restricted to individual use. The

units of their planning will enable many hard-pressed mathematics departments to offer the service courses which are now needed because of developments in many syllabuses which previously did not use mathematical techniques.

When talking it is easy to make gibberish statements which would be challenged if written down. In a sequence about a binomial distribution produced from an analysis of shoe sizes it is stated that the first mud could be the mud for women and the second could be the mud for men. The writer "could" convey a different meaning from the one that most people will take from the tape.

The second case is where the interquartile range in a television survey is said to be occupied by the typical viewer who does not watch too much or too little television. This is debatable and certainly not justified by the evidence presented to the student. A further criticism of this unit is where British and German wages are being compared and both graphs need to be seen together rather than waiting for them to appear in turn us each point is made.

These minor drawbacks spoil an otherwise excellent series. Perhaps the publishers of the project could give some thought to providing a better teacher's guide and making the tape filmstrip sequences optional.

Cooperative education

Safeguards for science

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING
by C. N. Butland
Published by the Faust and Aeronautical Organization of the United Nations Rome, Italy.
Available from HMSO.

The FAO development paper, *Audio-Visual Aids for Cooperative Education and Training*, has supplied a straightforward, simple yet immensely valuable manual of audio-visual aids for all those engaged in cooperative training programmes.

C. N. Butland has not merely produced an instructional booklet he has concisely outlined the value and effectiveness of a wide spectrum of resources for learning and teaching ranging from the blackboard to the television set. The author details in some detail with the art of presentation. The booklet is well illustrated with large clear diagrams.

It is refreshing to find someone writing about educational technology with the emphasis on education rather than technology. This paper has been produced specifically for those working in education and training programmes in developing countries, but educators in this country using audio-visual aids should find it invaluable.

Dan Douglass

Plans for independence

by Carolyn O'Grady

Incisive planning and careful organization lies behind every class which is successfully engaged with the teacher, improved significantly.

Teachers also made greater efforts to encourage pupils to participate in the planning of their independent studies. Analysis of further video-recordings made three months after the course showed these improvements to be retained, said Professor Perrott, and there was a significant improvement in the quality of the children's work.

"Planning Independent Studies" seeks to help the teacher to discover how capable each child in his class is of working alone and to help the teacher to monitor the work of individual children and to assist them when necessary.

The course is designed to take in-service and in-service teachers systematically through a number of activities which will help them to organize independent studies in the classroom. The package is made up of six videotapes, a teacher's handbook and a "coordinator's guide". Each lesson is usually devoted almost exclusively to one skill.

The teacher watches an introductory videotape and reads the handbook. He then prepares a "micro lesson", which is conducted either with a small group of children or one child and videotaped.

The teacher watches the tape either by himself or with a colleague and assesses his performance according to given criteria.

The videotaped sequences can be viewed at the Lancaster microteaching centre, but most colleges or LEAs using the course organize their own sessions in, for example, teacher centres.

Professor Perrott, Director of the Microteaching Research Unit, said that after field studies in which 50 primary and secondary school teachers and their pupils took part, it was found that the quality of the

pupils' planning and independent studies, which are developed with the teacher, improved significantly.

It is on this assumption that the University of Lancaster Microteaching Research Unit has devised its latest self-instructional microteaching course, "Planning Independent Studies".

The research and development programme for the course, like that for its predecessor, "Effective Questioning", were commissioned and funded by the Department of Education and Science.

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Rank Aldis

audiovisual equipment

rugged·reliable·economical

The versatile TUTOR 2 projector

Designed for continuous hard use. Timer, proven design, components and safety features. Cool running; excellent optics; various attachments, including film strip, slide carrier, slide magazine, accessory lenses. Specially designed carrying case.

The flexible CARD READERS
Uses special magnetic-lape slotted audio-corda, enabling pupil to hear teacher's voice while learning to recognise words or phrases. Model 800-Teacher/Pupil unit; Model 810-Pupil/battery/mains unit.

The simple and reliable CLASSETTES
Specially designed for educational work. Uses standard cassette. Battery and mains. 4 models, all portable. Outstanding value for money.

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CLASSETTE system. Tick where you require:
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 16mm film projectors
 Carriola rear screen slide projector
 Singer Studymate film projector
 Projection screen

Name _____
Position _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Date _____

Education Department
Raleigh's Tower
Sir Walter Raleigh is the subject of a 90-minute study programme available at the Tower of London during June and July. The Bloody Tower, where Sir Walter lived for 16 years, has recently been restored to look as it did when he was there. The study programme comprises a short film, illustrated talk on contemporary political and social events, and readings of writings by and about Raleigh.

The study programme is aimed at fourth year secondary students with knowledge of the period. It will be given on June 16, 17 and 20 and July 1, at 10.30 am. Teachers are asked to offer two dates.

For booking forms and details of charges write to the Education Officer, H.M. Tower of London, EC3N 4AB.

Romeo Vickers has introduced a new portable 'film duplicator', which weighs 38lb and can be packed into a case. The machine accepts small documents from 3in x 5in to 8in x 14in and has a maximum operating speed of 80 copies a minute. The price is £270 costs about £160 and is hand-operated. These rates could well be made the subject of a complete lesson with younger classes.

Harold W. Ajpilson

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Classified Advertisements

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Teachers wishing to apply for a post in Scotland are advised to ask the Registrar, The General Teaching Council for Scotland (6 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5AF) for information about eligibility for registration with the council.

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DEVON
EXTON FOXHEDGE HAM SCHOOL
OXFORD ST. JOHN'S C. I.C.I.
Ballylellis Road, Exton, Rutland.
Required for September 1977. An
experienced Headteacher, preferably
with a good record in the primary
years, and with a good record in
teaching. Application forms available
from Mrs. J. H. Tandy, The Secretary,
Exton Area Education Officer, 10
High Street, Exton, Rutland. Tel: 01093
21111. Closing date: 24th June 1977.
Salary scale £2,210 to £2,534.

The successful applicant will be
expected to take up the position
as soon as possible.

Application forms and further
details from Mrs. J. H. Tandy, The
Secretary, Exton Area Education
Officer, 10 High Street, Exton, Rutland.
Tel: 01093 21111. Closing date: 24th
June 1977.

CHESTER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ST. PETER'S R.C. PRIMARY
SCHOOL, CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTEER
Near Lathom, Cheshire.
Required for September 1977. An
experienced Headteacher, preferably
with a good record in the primary
years, and with a good record in
teaching. Application forms available
from Mr. G. J. Jackson, Headteacher,
St. Peter's Primary School, Church
of England, Lathom, Cheshire. Tel:
01942 711211. Closing date: 24th
June 1977.

CHESHIRE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ST. PETER'S R.C. PRIMARY
SCHOOL, CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTEER
Near Lathom, Cheshire.
Required for September 1977. An
experienced Headteacher, preferably
with a good record in the primary
years, and with a good record in
teaching. Application forms available
from Mr. G. J. Jackson, Headteacher,
St. Peter's Primary School, Church
of England, Lathom, Cheshire. Tel:
01942 711211. Closing date: 24th
June 1977.

CLIVEDEN
COUNTY

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current developments in environmental education at all levels, to identify areas of uncertainty and conflict, and to attempt to resolve these with the aid of working groups of teachers throughout the country.

Environmental education is currently practised at all levels, from primary to higher. In the primary sector, a wide range of themes are generally covered under environmental and rural studies, and the flexibility offered in classes which are not exclusively exam-oriented allows useful experimentation with inter-disciplinary studies which often focus on the man-environment theme.

In the secondary sector, however, where through lack of time and facilities teaching is commonly geared closely to the demands of syllabuses, environmental education as such is only really possible where there are suitable exam-based syllabuses. The lack of identity and coherence of the subject prevents it from being taught widely as a service subject.

Although there are now a wide variety of syllabuses at various levels, there is some evidence that the standard of environmental teaching in secondary schools could be improved in number of ways. In the early 1970s the Conservation Society mounted a "national survey into environmental education in secondary schools" in Britain, and in the report published in 1974 Peter Berry, education correspondent of the society, concluded that environmental matters were being "... taught partially and haphazardly, with virtually no overall thought or organization..."

This is clearly a worrying conclusion to have drawn, but probably one explanation centres around the basic shortage of suitable environmental studies courses at colleges of education before about 1970. In the higher education sector there are a larger number of options available, and the demand for environmental education appears to be more clearly identified and catered for since this is the educate

tional platform which will launch the conservationists of tomorrow on their chosen careers.

In the colleges of education there is now a range of environmental studies and science courses, generally interdisciplinary and non-orientated. The situation in universities and polytechnics is even more encouraging. This year there are in the order of seventy undergraduate environmental science/studies courses available in Britain, many of them centred upon specially created environmental science/studies schools and departments (such as those at the universities of East Anglia, Ulster, and Lancaster). There are facilities at the post-graduate level also, and the most widely known of these is the Masters degree in environmental studies offered at University College London since the early 1960s.

Complementary to these facilities for environmental education in a formal sense, there are a number of encouraging signs that the demand for conservation education is being met through informal and incidental channels. There are a number of opportunities for off-school involvement in conservation activities which include membership of "participation" groups such as The Conservation Corps, the field force of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which actively helps in the maintenance and management of nature reserves and sites of biological importance, and the Watch projects coordinated by the Advisory Centre of Education which, with the use of small study units, specially prepared for the exercise, coordinates a series of nationwide surveys by young people in date have been considered water and air pollution, building conservation and the like.

Membership of local conservation groups also offers informal educational opportunities through contact with fellow members, participation in local conservation and publicity exercises, and the receipt of group literature such as regular newsletters and the like.

Two large groups which have local branches throughout Britain are the Conservation Society with

more than 30 branches, which has a sister organization, The Conservation Trust, aimed specifically to conserve education through the publication of books and teaching materials and through the establishment of a resource bank of reference and textbooks, slide sets, and the like, for use by subscribing schools and colleges; and the Friends of the Earth Ltd, with more than 100 branches which lobby against proposed projects which threaten to damage the environment or to squander valuable resources.

Students can also benefit greatly from the experience of belonging to one or other of the national scientific organizations such as the British Isles, the British Trust for Ornithology, or the Mammal Society because these organizations provide up-to-date information in their respective fields of providing education services, facilities, and distribution mapping schemes which aim to provide through volunteer observers—up-to-date knowledge of the distribution of species of plants and animals which will assist in identifying declining populations, persecuted species and those in danger of extinction.

Many environmental organizations alert to the important role of education in promoting environmental awareness, have appointed education officers or committees (such as the Society for the Protection of Nature Reserves—recently renamed the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature)—Friends of the Earth Ltd and the Conservation Society).

Incidental learning is also of vital importance, because exposure to frequent coverage of environmental items in the news media can only serve to increase environmental awareness by reinforcing what has been learnt in more formal situations elsewhere. The series of RSPB lectures given on BBC radio in 1969 by Dr (now Sir) Frank Fyres Darling on the theme "Wilderness and Plenty" provides a strikingly effective example of this.

Similarly, visits to the countryside, to national parks, national nature reserves, and the like, bring into the concepts and details mentioned in the classroom situation, and give both a clearer perspective and a lasting place within the personal experience of the observer.

There are thus a wide range of opportunities available to the individual seeking to increase his or her own environmental awareness, ranging from the formalized opportunities centred upon courses in the schools, college, and university sectors, through more informal opportunities associated with membership of, and participation in, various local and national conservation and scientific groups, to the more or less incidental opportunities offered by general reading, by watching television, listening to radio, participation in general discussions, etc.

We felt that any written material we produced would have to solve this problem of transience. It would have to be immediate, and topical, and in a sense, "timely".

The answer to both problems seemed obvious—to produce a magazine for use by the pupils as part of their environmental science and environmental studies programmes. This idea for *Quest* magazine was born.

At this point our meetings were opened, on the one hand to bring in an interested firm of publishers (Mary Glasgow Publications), and on the other to bring in teachers and advisers.

There appears to be two main sides to the issue. On the one hand many stress the educational value of using the man/environment relationship as a basis of study—that is, they view the environment as a medium for education. On the other hand, there are those concerned with the need to promote a sense of personal responsibility for the state of the environment—which view the environment as the goal of education.

The former approach seems likely to continue in the near future, and the ultimate choice will depend upon the identification of a compromise between the conflicting views of the environmentalists and the conservationists. The central objective must focus on the need to develop a "conservation ethic" of the sort which Aldo Leopold had in mind when he wrote: "That land as a community is the basic concept of ecology—but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics". (1949, *Sand County Almanac*).

The pilot edition went out to several hundred selected schools in the summer of 1976; some of the

Quest for a format

Mike Lyth on writing for environmental studies

What do people in schools understand by the term "environmental science"? What are the differences between "environmental studies"?

Are the two activities different or the same? If different, what are the differences?

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Climatic change and world food

By John Gribbin

The local problems posed to Britain by a continuing deterioration of the climate are severe and almost unique. We are dependent, or so we are told, on the output of oil from the North Sea for our economic salvation—all extracted under conditions that already push the technological abilities of our engineers to the limit, and which are likely to get worse, rather than better during the next few years and decades.

In agriculture, as prices of food commodities continue to soar on the world markets, our producers are constantly being urged to step up output in order to reduce the costly need for massive food imports. Yet over the past 25 years the length of the growing season in central England has shortened by a fortnight—essentially, the late frosts of spring are a week later than in the early 1950s, while the early frosts of autumn are a week earlier.

The specific hunting threat is of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a regular purchaser of perhaps 20 million tons of grain each year on the world markets, forcing prices up, restricting supplies available to the Third World and creating a potentially explosive situation when the threat of starvation in some countries might lead to nuclear blackmail, or even all-out war between those who have nothing to eat and those who have a little.

The irony of this is that, as a growing number of "financialists" now realise, the problems of world food and population are not technological problems, but almost entirely political. Put in the crudest terms, the poor starve not because there is no food available, but because they cannot afford it. This dramatic statement runs counter to the orthodoxy of the teaching of the "prophets of doom", and needs some justification.

The dry summer of 1975 hit this crop severely, but the agricultural planners shrugged it off as "just one of those things". Then, the summer of 1976 was even drier, and the beet softer, even more. What can the farmers do? Molasses, the strength of the past two summers, has been halted as a slowing of the agricultural industry, especially in Britain. England, until recently, has been planted this year, than ever before. But what will be the result if we have a cold, wet summer—quite on the cards if the climate continues to swing from one extreme to the other?

Industry, as much as agriculture, is most disturbed by extremes of climate—any more or less constant trend can be lived with. Many people noticed last year that while the law in Britain defines a minimum temperature for working conditions, there is no set maximum. A few summer can hit industry by increasing absenteeism; a hard winter increases days lost through illness, power-holding out and makes it harder to obtain raw materials to deliver the goods.

The old joke about British Rail

being disrupted by a slight frost are not entirely fair. We have had two really hard winters in the past three decades, and on that kind of average the sort of investment in snow clearing equipment needed by railways in Canada or Scandinavia does not make economic sense. But if there are likely to be three such winters in the next 10 years, then some investment along those lines is justified.

The prospect of British Rail seek-

ing funds for such investment, and the image such a prospect brings to mind, only serves to emphasise the painful need for adjustment of attitudes throughout the whole of British industry, and government, to meet the problems of climatic change.

In spite of these special local problems, however, the real impact of any sustained climate change is likely to lie in its broader effects on the world's growing population. The political importance of the problem has been thrown into relief by the recent release of a series of detailed CIA reports.

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The prospect of British Rail seek-

Making a study of gravestones in the local churchyard.
Photo: Peter Hendry

continued from page 33

It should not be forgotten that one of the best and most interesting ways of finding out what our ancestors did fifty or so years ago, and to gain an indication of life in those days, is to talk to local people. Let the children take a cassette tape recorder so that the information which they obtain can be kept for posterity.

Many elderly people enjoy talking to children, and telling them about the often hard, but usually happy, times of days gone by. In some villages earlier residents recorded their observations, and these appear in books and pamphlets which have survived.

A survey of house names generally leads to two observations. First, that there are many houses which have names telling something of their history. For example, the Barley Mow was a beer house, and the Red Lion a coaching stop. Second, others like Red House and Ivy Cottage are "modern" names which, although giving us some information about the present house, tell us little about the history of the building.

Features found on houses give an interesting glimpse into the past. When, for example, did damp courses first appear? Why were there piazzas (fire-marks) on many houses? Why do modern houses have few, if any, chimneys, when compared with the large numbers found on many older buildings?

Children should be encouraged to record their impressions with wax crayons and large sheets of paper. Polaroid cameras are also useful since the child has an instant record of his picture. Photographs and slides taken will aid recall at a later date. Cassette tape recorders can record much information: the sounds of birds in the local hedge, the rustlings in the field, the rippling stream, rain on machinery, including the wind and so on.

Somewhere in or close to the village there is generally some source of water, probably the main reason why the village grew up in the first instance. Where streams are found, mills, very few of which perform their original function, are

Poles apart

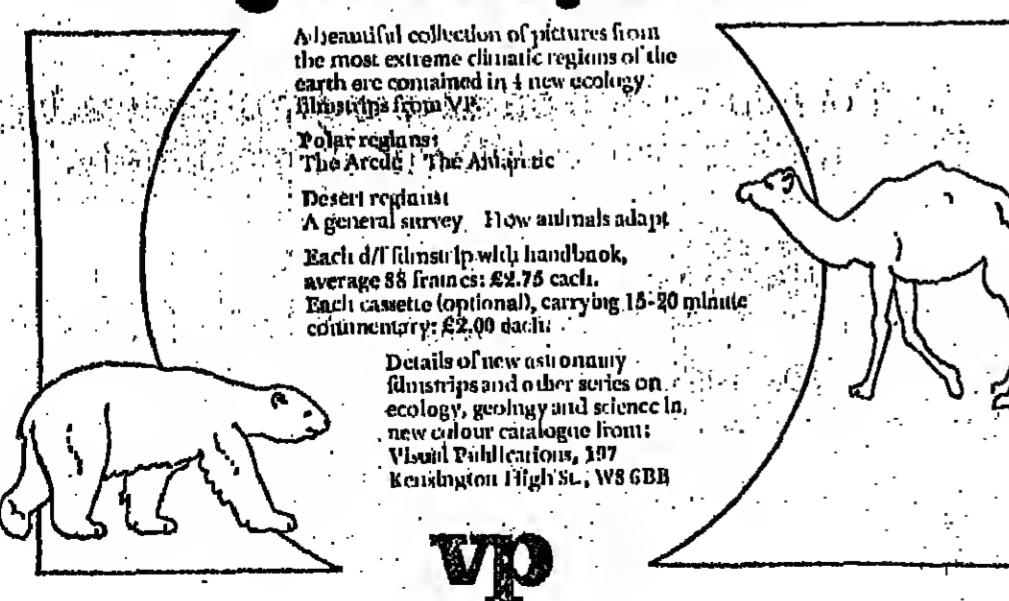
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A new degree course at Wye College
By Adeline Hartcup

Production without pollution

Wye College, the University of London's vigorous teaching and research department for undergraduates and graduates in agriculture, horticulture and related sciences near Ashford, Kent, is about to establish a new degree. From the beginning of this coming academic year, the BSc in environmental chemistry (UCCA 3640) will offer a broadly based science training with special emphasis on the application of chemistry to the rural environment. Dr N. G. Clarke and Dr J. L. Garraway, senior lecturers in agricultural chemistry in the department of physical sciences at Wye, have planned the new course realistically. The use of chemicals is as justifiable and indispensable in agri-

culture as it is in medicine, say. But the environmental chemist this raises must be considerate and solved by people with special training. The objective must be to produce "without pollution".

So where will the students go? As inspectors and analysts in a government service and in public and private industry; with water and

continued on opposite page

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orides, the Nature Conservancy, Soil Survey, the Alkali Inspectorate and the Forestry Commission; in land reclamation and disposal, environmental advisory and consultancy work, and in teaching and research.

The plan is to start with about 10 first-year students. Applicants should offer good A levels in chemistry, biology and another natural science (including geography), as well as O levels to cover English, maths and, if possible, a foreign language.

How will the new syllabus work out? First-year students will start on subjects such as geology, climatology and meteorology, physical chemistry, organic and biological chemistry, mycology and plant pathology, and analytical methods, invertebrate zoology, the anatomy and physiology of farm animals, and crop, botany and genetics can also be studied.

Second-year subjects include soil physics, biological statistics, plant pathology, ecology and integrated biochemistry. Industrial chemistry will introduce such metal industries, processing of materials in industry, and waste discharge. Other subjects are crop protection, agricultural and horticultural technology, and crop pests and diseases.

Crop protection is developed further in the third year of the course, when students will also work on environmental pollution, geochemistry and physics. Earth resources is the subject of one of a number of new courses which the department is offering, and this will raise questions such as what quantity of earth resources is consumed by chemical industry, how much exists at present, and

By Colin Ward, director of the Schools Council Art and the Built Environment Project

There are parallels between environmental education and sex education. We are always being warned that it is not enough to give instruction in the biology of sex while remodelling society about love, responsibility and the respect that human beings owe each other. It is in the nature of systematic education, as philosopher from Plato to Herbert Read have reminded us, to neglect the education of the emotions.

Towns and cities and the urban environment investigated under the banner of several school subjects in an analytical, fact-finding way, but still undervalued, is the sensory, sensory and emotional impact of the built environment: how we feel about towns, what makes us feel at home in a place, what makes us sick of the sight of it. The Schools Council Project Art and the Built Environment (BEE) is an attempt to find a positive role for the arts in environmental education, not as an alternative to, or a rival to, or a servicing agent to the work of other departments, but an essential educational complement.

The aims of the project are to enlarge the students' environmental perception and help them develop a "feel" for their urban surroundings; to enhance their capacity for discrimination and their competence in the visual appraisal of the built environment; and to evolve and disseminate generally applicable techniques and methods for achieving these objectives.

It is being run by a voluntary body, the Town and Country Planning Association, among whose activities has been, for the last six years, the publication of the monthly edition of *Environmental Education* (BEE), which is being used as the vehicle for trial materials. The project officer is Eileen Adams, seconded for two years by the ILRA from Phillips School where, as deputy head of art, she has been running the Front Door project, a pioneering venture in this field (see TES, June 11, 1976).

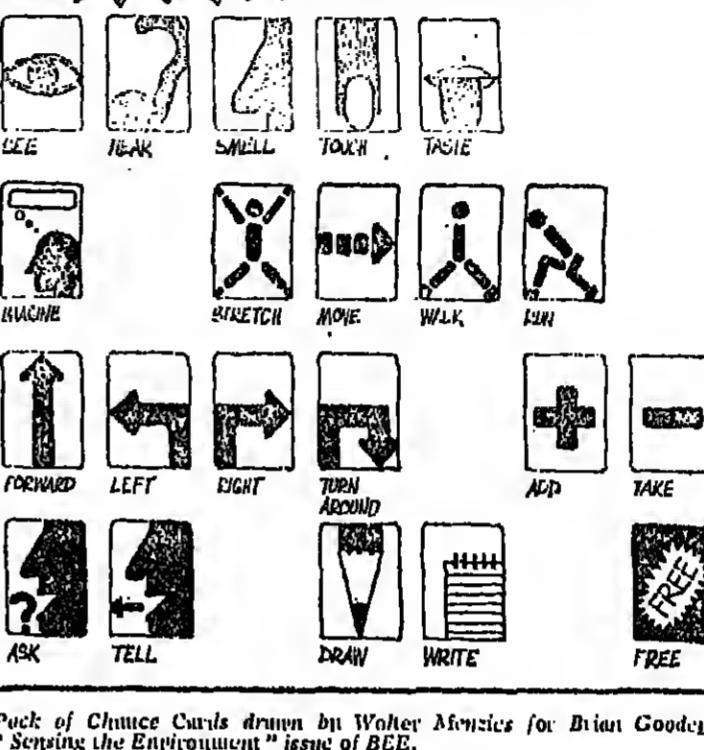
Front Door has several unique features, one of which is that it is a programme of activity for sixth-formers preparing for a level in art, their colleagues taking part in a non-examination option, the "new" sixth-formers, and the variety of further education students, as well as, in one of our dozen trial institutions, students of the General Technical Through Art and Design promoted by the Yorkshire and Humberside Committee for Further Education.

No two of our trial schools are alike, and of course no two students.

There are those who have always been "good at art" and have reached a considerable level of photographic skill, and those who, like most of the school population, dropped art at 13 or 14, have matured intellectually or

Out of the art room into the street

By Colin Ward, director of the Schools Council Art and the Built Environment Project



Pack of Chancery Cards drawn by Walter Mincie for Brian Goodey's "Sensing the Environment" issue of BEE.

In practice this is a very mixed bunch, including the students' environmental perception and help them develop a "feel" for their urban surroundings; to enhance their capacity for discrimination and their competence in the visual appraisal of the built environment; and to evolve and disseminate generally applicable techniques and methods for achieving these objectives.

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some kind of visual art product is the end result of the project for the student.

Certainly we have seen some wonderful works of art which students have developed from some environmental inspiration, more or less detail. They stand in their own right and need no apology, and they justify the level examined, but they necessarily fulfil the aims of our project.

Obviously not all those approaches are going to appeal to all art teachers; in or outside the project it may even be that the character of Schools Council project strategy of issuing trial materials to the participating schools is just not appropriate to the way art teachers work. But the wealth of ideas they contain could be adopted in innumerable ways by the teacher or student.

And the schools themselves are developing their own methods of approach.

At Ysgol Gymraeg,

Valefawera, in South Wales, the work is based on the decline, decay and development of a dying village.

At Shirelles School,

Hawthorn, students are involved in a comparison of Haworth's new shopping centre and Old Bathfield.

At Peter Symonds College, Winchester, they are making use of environmental issues in their usual art studies of colour, movement, etc.

A project at Bathurst School links the work with creative writing.

We are anxious to see the trial materials used in a variety of associate schools besides the trial institutions, and the issues of BEE referred to are available at 40p each post free from Schools Council BEE Project, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1X 5AS. Since it is probably true that there are no new educational ideas, only new people discovering them, we would particularly like to hear from art teachers who have been experimenting in this field of work.

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Geographical approaches in the primary school

T. H. Masterton discusses the subject from a Scottish viewpoint

Geography is taught in primary schools, as an element in environmental studies, and as a study in its own right. Its approaches to the study of "place" and "space" and its integration of studies of place, work and folk are excellent, though not always as well as might be. The full potential of its contribution to knowledge and awareness has yet to be tapped.

A failure to achieve this potential is not the fault of the school teacher who uses the project approach to environmental studies. After all, such an approach is characteristic of the Primary Memorandum's advice on environmental studies, and is frequently based on spontaneous centres of interest developing according to the wishes of the class.

This incidental approach may not produce a balanced view of the scope of environmental knowledge, though it might well provide suitable vehicles for the development of many skills. Anyway, spontaneous projects may fail through lack of suitable books and materials.

A child can pass through the primary school and study such environmental topics as "The Romans", "The Vikings", "Fossils", and "Canada"; he adept at representing collected objects in a collage, and be involved in such simple experiments as making bread, or even seeing a mouse dissected; all interesting, and if handled well, educationally valuable. However, it cannot be maintained that all of these elements

when taken together constitute an orderly programme.

What is environmental study really supposed to be about? It is the study of the development of study skills, then the subject-matter chosen does not really matter that much. After all, Charles once argued for his esteemed position on the basis of its mind training characteristics, long after it ceased to have much practical value.

But environmental studies is surely much more than work with skills. Surely it should be about the nature of the child's heritage; an introduction to nature, the land, the life of the people, their responsibilities, their work and their culture, both here (at home) and elsewhere. It should be about the quality of life.

Do not children have the right to understand something of the causes of great disasters? The Schools Council has produced a kit on "Floods"; well structured round key ideas and with excellent resources.

Furthermore, we are without doubt interdependent with others. We need oil, fruit, metals and wheat for bread. We can provide services and manufactured goods. Should not this concept of interdependence be thoroughly developed? All what of sympathy for others? Environmental study could begin to open our eyes and hearts to the disadvantaged peoples of the world.

But what of the "middle area", the small and close and familiar like the local community; but far, east and exotic like India, but the country and nation to which we are attached? A Middle East oilfield, a Japanese city?

want of simple advice. Yet since we make our living from knowledge and experience it cannot be given away so readily.

Buddhism there must be, for the curriculum is wide ranging. Physical fitness is essential. This is important, but we are out and about in all weather and in every sort of terrain. In this survey stage we might be collecting data on unspoilt countryside, but when supervising construction, knee deep in cold, wet mud, and next thing reporting estimates to a committee. There is always variety.

Observations must be keen. Signs are often fleeting or obscure, but to be able, for instance, to read signs of a subtly changed vegetation that soil, water or geological strata is different, is no all important skill. Knowledge of micro-climates, drainage, and ecology, not just as observed phenomena but for application in design, is one of the most exciting and advanced practices in the world today. Whether it is for half a hectare or half a county the principles still apply.

Communication of ideas calls for well developed abilities in design, drawing, writing and speaking. Landscape design is much more difficult to sit down and plan than say, architecture. A plan must convey all sorts of dimensions and needs to be valid. Length, breadth and height would not be difficult, but the addition of durational and seasonal changes and long term growth patterns is another matter.

We have often to remind ourselves that we may never see the results of our work. An oak tree, for example, takes about eighty years to mature. Clients often want quick or instant results and we then put to apply all the latest horticultural skills in satisfy this wish. I always try to put in a few long term, perhaps arid, some time, trees in case.

But it is not all planting. Cravat pins, aerosol erosion, pollution, synthetic plants, adventure playgrounds, paved areas, earth moving - the list is almost endless because wherever man is active on land there is work for the landscape architect. We must, therefore, be in a position to talk with architects, planners, engineers, biologists and many more on an equal footing. The general syllabus contains elements of all these disciplines.

Of recent years a great deal of

the pattern of the seasons and regions of nature and people; beginning to understand our dependence on the work of others.

In other words, what do children need to know about the local area that could not be picked up by living in it? The Schools Council "Place, Time and Society" kit SHOPS is an admirable aid for some of this work.

What of the world at large and our place in it? We have been told that the world is now like a great village. What happens in a distant spot will soon be known about and even seen here and its effects soon felt. Is such knowledge to be gained solely by watching television?

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Scots belong? How important is it that children should grow up knowing of their national heritage?

For the Scots child, what of Scotland and its rich heritage in its many facets? It is Robert Burns, it is Mary Queen of Scots. It is wildlife. It is the residue of the past. It is also the contemporary scene of the country, its wealth of landscapes, both physical and human, the many skills of its people, our ways of living, our towns, our pastimes, products and our needs for them, our problems and their solutions.

BBC material is helpful but, for the best of copyright reasons, it is ephemeral, and may be used in a rather haphazard way unless the teacher allows the BBC programmes to determine the sequence of work.

How can geographical approaches help? In local study, techniques of geographical field study are essential: observing, measuring, counting, sketching, mapping, representing by graph, followed by discussion, interpretation and finding of trends and patterns. Geographical approaches also provide basic concepts to help organize understanding; for example, processes at work in nature and human activity, the human ecology of a place, the value of location, networks and patterns of movement.

A very useful set of descriptive material exists to describe the distant places of the earth. Commercial catalogues have many examples of the kind of study that presents a picture of reality in a concrete way - a Middle East oilfield, a Japanese city.

These are case studies, intended for secondary school but frequently used and adopted for use in the primary school. Real people are seen to live and work

concern but been expressed by ecologists and similarly interested people about the hazards from the impact of human developments on the environment. Already, in the United States, EIS (Environmental Impact Statements) are legally required before development permits are granted. The same procedure is being adopted for British Oil and Gas. In their various practices are particularly well experienced in this sort of appraisal, but it is clear that as the economy regenerates we shall need to recruit many more high calibre students.

Education has been difficult for us to be able, for instance, to read signs of a subtly changed vegetation that soil, water or geological strata is different, is no all important skill.

Knowledge of micro-climates, drainage, and ecology, not just as observed phenomena but for application in design, is one of the most exciting and advanced practices in the world today. Whether it is for half a hectare or half a county the principles still apply.

Such a programme could help develop an interest in one's environment and a responsibility for it. And a knowledge of some of the contemporary achievements of some Scots people in their homeland, a knowledge without which laudable pride is impossible. It would also develop some knowledge and understanding of the past and interdependence of the people of the world and sympathy for the plight of many of its people.

T. H. Masterton is head of the geography department at Stag's House College of Education, Edinburgh.

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in real places and bare problems to solve.

How does our "middle area" fare? Oliver & Boyd's *People and Scotland*, a kit of 16 reading titles, with a wall chart, slide rule and a teacher's guide, forms a sensible nucleus for work on Scotland. Developed from recent educational work by the authors, the booklet presents a short study of landscapes, both physical and human, the many skills of its people, our ways of living, our towns, our pastimes, products and our needs for them, our problems and their solutions.

If my environment and yours are poles apart, I know we share one feature, the motor car. Admittedly the conservation problem created by the car are somewhat different to ours, but you could find our attitudes to our cars, and to the cars belonging to other people, rather similar to those held elsewhere.

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It is noticeable that when an environmentalist speaks of the environment, it is really his environment he is referring to. In fact, his environment is a sort of territory which he defends. He pushes out its frontiers as far as he can, only stopping when they become too numerous to defend against unauthorised intrusions.

"Take your litter home", he says, showing that his concern for the environment only extends as far as your front door. He also implies that you can have your home stocked to the ceiling with litter, but that is your environmental problem. Just make sure you do not let any of it leak into the garden, because, although it is your garden, it is part of your environment. Environments are obviously very porous things.

Although the man/car partnership has already been given good mileage, I think the relationship between home and car tells us about our attitudes to our environment. Car ownership is the clearest demonstration that we aim to eat our cake and still have it. Even if there are conscientious back-seat passengers in all of us, the environmental front does not necessarily mean he is a fly-by-nighter. After all, he was clearing up his own environment, wasn't he?

This too-long zone occurs where our territories overlap. We share much of our habitat with people who see, and treat it differently, and it is unrealistic to imagine that uniform standards of environmental management will ever be respected. If we have a biological urge to create a congenial habitat for ourselves, we must concede that others have an equal right.

When the habitat is shared, and ideas of congenitally are not, conflict is inevitable. The idea of what constitutes a congenial environment is probably the result of early conditioning. Irrational as this might take place just where we avoid confrontation, to the fortress of the homo.

However, at school the child learns to live in a wider environment, with more sharing, and where peaceful coexistence is achieved as much by clever negotiation as by happy agreement.

From there will emerge the normal, selfish adult determined to carve a niche in the crowded world, and to defend it if necessary with broken bottle and aerosol paint.

In his new car, he is a peacock. His old car is abandoned beyond the frontier of his concern, where it now serves as an ideal nest site for birds or a saloon for lobsters. Maybe that makes him rather like me, a friend of the earth, at 70 miles an hour.

Philip Smout is the author of *Hudson's Environmental Studies series* and the *Macmillan Environment Books*.

One man's environment . . .

By Baxter Cooper

I am well aware that, as far as environments go, I have got my sun share in the sun. My surroundings are pleasing. I work with deer, in the open smoke-free air from my door is a sandy beach which stretches for miles. In the past four days I have seen two rigs sailing by, and I wait with my bottled rage at the ready, waiting for the first slick to foul the sand. Damn! North Sea oil, I say, and I jump into my car and take off for a four gallon trip in the hills.

In fact, the car might be the clearest indicator of man's belief in himself. It has the unfriendly right to move up big, uncomfited if he wants to. Moreover, it shows the inherently biological basis for this conviction by enclosing the user, other people make. As the old saying has it "your own dirt is clean dirt".

Now, in the north of Scotland we can make the excuse that without the car life would be very much as it was before General Wade made roads for his security forces. This dependence on the car is the reason why the Highlands becomes the final parking space for herds of cars which anywhere else would have suffered brutal mechanical euthanasia.

Here they putter on, useful to the last spark. One old crofter I know claims he has never spent more than £40 on a "new" car. His little house is surrounded by a score of decomposed and decomposing vehicles, and to my eyes it is when it refuses to do so.

I do not feel guilty about adding to the stress of others, because I cherish the ambivalence which characterizes all car-using conservationists.

One day we were standing at his front door, watching the hens waddling the ovals between the rusting hulls. "What I would really like to have here", the old man said, "is a peacock." Well, the hen looked satisfied with their environment, and the old man thought it only lacked a peacock. A peacock would probably consider the only missing anomaly to be a poacher. The eyesore was in my eye only.

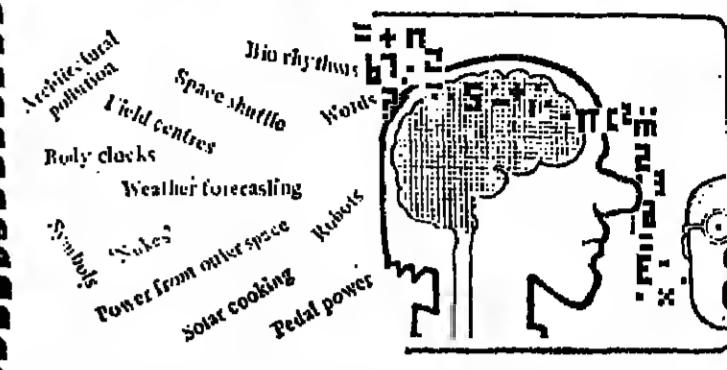
At one time I would have cursed all cars, and a good sample of crofters as well. In those days judgment was simple, only righteousness supreme. Ecology was a word nobody had heard of, and the environment meant trees and future orchards, happy larks and frogs. Now, however, I have come to care about the environment reflected in being rare. We were martyrs to the myopia of our fellow men. Old cars were visibly a bad thing.

Then the new breed of sad environmentalists muscled in. They jerked back the covers and exposed the underlying filth and silent springs. The environment has never been the same since. It has become infinitely deep and wide. It includes everything from the long-sightedness of our front door to the filling in our tooth. The Department of the Environment cultivates council houses.

Never before were we so aware that the environment is inescapable. It hangs around our necks and bites in our ears. "If I go, we all go," Simeon said. "I will go, we all go." Still, when we do go, we do not have to take it with us.

The environment used to be such a sweet, quiet thing, and such a comfort in time of stress. Now it seems a tight old rag. Perhaps it is

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Those are just some of the fascinating topics which will be covered in MGIP's new magazine - QUEST - due to be published this September.

Designed for 12-14-year-olds studying science in secondary schools, QUEST provides up-to-date material which helps to make science come alive. Using school science as a base, QUEST will stimulate investigation of, and concern with, the environment as a whole.

Issued six times a year, QUEST is easy and fun to read, well illustrated and designed to be used either in class or at home. Comprehensive teacher's notes accompany each issue.

QUEST is written by experts in integrated and environmental science and pilot magazines have been thoroughly tested in many schools. It is edited by Mike Lyth (SCISP) and regular contributors include: BBC Science Producer - Peter Baker; Science Advisers - John Milbourn, Chris Elliott and Barry Blakeley; Teachers - Tom Duncan and Nina Sully.

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THE FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL
COURSES FOR TEACHERS

Among many residential courses at FSC Centres a number are specifically designed for teachers. Some are designed to help teachers with the change in emphasis of the syllabus.

The following courses have some vacancies:

"Primary and middle school teachers' initial biology and environmental science course", July 23 to 28 (Monday to Friday). Juniper Hall, £30.00.

"Geometric geomorphology", July 27 to August 1 (Monday to Friday). Preston Montford, £30.00.

"Teachers' initial courses for maths with the new London A" level geography syllabus", August 1 to 5 (Monday to Friday). Preston Montford, £30.00.

"Biosites made practical", August 24 to 31 (Wednesday to Wednesday). The Grapes' Centre, £48.00.

"Field and laboratory techniques for the new physical geography", August 24 to 31 (Wednesday to Wednesday). Shipton Ley, £45.00.

"Field methods for teachers", August 24 to 31 (Wednesday to Wednesday). Preston Montford, £45.00.

Full details obtainable from the Information Office, TEB, Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW.

... now cover nearly 1000 towns and cities throughout the UK.

Our scale plans show distribution of business in shopping centres and are used by Educationalists and Environmentalists as well as commercial firms.

Andrée Brooks on America's Youth Conservation Corps

Hard-hats in the wilderness

Their bright, sunshiny yellow hard-hats with the telltale blue-and-white "Y" emblem on the front stand out like beacons in a deranging wilderness. And in only a few short years, the youngsters who wear them have become one of the most welcome sights hard at work in the American outdoors during the hot summer months.

They are the hundreds of members of the seven-year-old United States Youth Conservation Corps, a combined federal and state-funded programme designed to offer badly-needed summer employment with an ecological bent to jobless teenagers.

Troubled by the sight of so many out-of-work teens hanging around aimlessly during the long ten-week summer vacation unable to find jobs and drifting into trouble instead, Congress appropriated pilot funds for an experimental Youth Conservation Corps back in 1970 as a constructive alternative open to youngsters from every kind of background—not just the minorities and the needy. Statistics showed that lawlessness emanating from drug traffic and vandalism nurtured on the street corner among the indolent young was certainly not a problem confined to decaying inner-city neighbourhoods. It flourished anywhere teens were left idle.

"There was opposition at first," certain federal officials felt the young people would not be capable of the tough physical work in the wilderness areas envisioned by the plan; that there would be trouble, violence and scandal in the camps and that the ranks would end up being mostly and not really youths.

Asked a girl: "There I was, about to leave my family for the first time and not knowing what I had gotten into. I was a little scared. I wasn't sure if I'd be able to do the work and I thought the other kids might laugh at me." By the end of the summer neither teenager said they would have rather spent the time any other way.

There is a strict rule that a portion of time must be set aside for environmental instruction as YCC was conceived very much as a study programme, although it is also accompanied by offering side trips to saw mills, water-wheel and supply areas or pollution control centres.

However, there is a growing practice of sending trained instructors to visit the teams at a particular work site to offer them insights into the nature or background of their current project or integrating more fully the learning with the doing. This is important as is one of the auxiliary goals of YCC is to leave the youngsters with a deeper understanding, appreciation and empathy for their environment, difficult to generate from the classroom.

Applicants (the age group is restricted to those teens between the ages of 15 and 18) send off for a computerized form early each spring, usually after hearing of YCC through their school or local newspaper. Each applicant can only take on one team person to be taken on for one season trying to go in. There is usually a roughly equal spread between boys and girls who apply, with just a slight predominance of boys.

These applications are then fed into a computer which selects purely at random.

However, a preliminary run through always has to be made "since" checked one official, "so many have tried to get an edge on our lottery system by sending in more than one card—a dubious practice but one that seems to the popularity of the programme among the young people themselves."

No one may be excluded because of innate level of family, sex, colour, creed or scholastic standing, a practice that is genuinely followed. To ensure this only name, age and address can be given on the original computer application.

A follow-up interview with YCC staffers is offered to those lucky enough to be chosen mainly to ensure the individual is fully capable of the job. Above all, a quarter change their minds or drop out at this point for varying reasons. Alternatives are then given a chance.

The organizers proudly point out that hardly any corps member quits once the summer starts. Few members leave mid-season or need to be dropped because of failure to show up for work, when and where required, or because of disruptive behaviour or slacking off. "There is a spirit among these groups that is positively refreshing", says one of the organizers. "Any kids who are dog-tired from tough physical work outdoors are not likely to be restless or troublesome. So we encounter few discipline problems."

The staff—made up mostly of teachers, themselves available for summer work—rigidly enforces strict rules about curfew, no drinking or drugs. And for the sensible and responsible part of the original critics of YCC have failed to materialize. Moreover, there is such a stigma attached to a member being kicked out (a decision taken by a student court, a sort of ad-hoc, unison-management team elected early on in the season) that this ultimate penalty has rarely been called into use.

In 1970, an Act of Congress made the YCC a permanent part of the Government's job-training and employment system after finding it had demonstrated a high degree of success as a pilot programme.

Further information on the United States Conservation Corps may be obtained by contacting Mr G Aker, Director, Office of Manpower Training and Youth Activities, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

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The book's great attraction... is that it is essentially an activity book. The experiments are ample, clearly described, well-illustrated, and can be performed with the minimum of expensive equipment. Education Equipment

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The Secondary Teacher

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Another way in which relevance and organization has been demonstrated this term is in the "Think-In" on Fieldwork programme. This "Any Questions" type programme was recorded in

Radio—a practical resource

By Geoffrey Sherlock of
BBC School Radio

The term Environmental Studies has just about as many definitions as practitioners, but at least the term means in relation to each class.

The panel programme aimed at initiating discussion in schools on fieldwork ideas and methods, some of which had been indicated in its preceding broadcasts. This discussion is very important if fieldwork is to be a vital part of environmental studies in any form. I have suggestions from a variety of sources that some fieldwork tends to be rogue, unstructured and to have no definite aim or stopping point—apparently, studies which vanish like a flash flood into deserts are not uncommon.

These comments indicate some of my views and plans but obviously my colleagues' interests are quite different. Mike Howarth, who produced "Exploration Earth", for example, suggests from the variety of sources that some fieldwork tends to be rogue, unstructured and to have no definite aim or stopping point—apparently, studies which vanish like a flash flood into deserts are not uncommon.

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COUNTRY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN

Required for September 1977 unless otherwise stated.

BARRY BOYS' COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL (11-16) 12 FORM ENTRY

To assist with technical subjects in the Middle and Upper School.

BOYS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCALE 1

To teach the subject throughout the school.

CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 6 FORM ENTRY

GIRLS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES, SCALE 1

To teach throughout the school. Please state subsidiary subjects.

SCIENCE, SCALE 1

Teacher of integrated Science in lower school and assist with Physics and/or Biology to C.S.E. and 'D' level.

WELSH, SCALE 1

To assist in the teaching of the subject throughout the school to examination levels.

GLEN ELY HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 9 FORM ENTRY

(Social Priority Allowance payable).

REMEDIAL TEACHER, SCALE 1

To teach numeracy subjects to remedial/slow learning pupils within the Department of Special Education.

Glyn Dwr High School, Cardiff (11-18 Comprehensive) 7 Form Entry

(Social Priority Allowance payable).

GEORGRAPHY, SCALE 1 OR 2

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible. Graduate to teach throughout the school and up to 'A' level. Knowledge of new Geography Techniques essential. Scale 2 allowance for suitably experienced candidate.

HOWARDIAN HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 8 FORM ENTRY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES, SCALE 3

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible, to be responsible for the subjects throughout the school.

GEOPGRAPHY/ENGLISH, SCALE 1

To teach mainly lower school Geography with some English. The vacancy is due to a long term absence and is for one term in the first instance, but could continue for a longer period of time.

Llanishen High School, Cardiff (11-16 Comprehensive) 9 Form Entry

HOME ECONOMICS, SCALE 1

To teach throughout the school. Able to assist with Girls' games an advantage.

REDHY Comprehensive School, Cardiff (11-18) 6 Form Entry

(Teaching in mixed ability groups for first year).

PHYSICS, SCALE 1 OR 2

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible, to teach Integrated Science in the first two years and Nuclear Physics up to and including 'A' level. Scale 2 available for suitably qualified applicant.

RHUMANTI HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-16 Comprehensive School) 10 Form Entry

GEOPGRAPHY, SCALE 1

To teach throughout the school to 'O' and C.S.E. levels in the first instance.

MATHEMATICS, SCALE 1

To teach throughout the school to 'O' level and C.S.E., Possibility of 'A' level work for a suitably qualified candidate.

ST. CYRUS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, PONERTH (11-18) 10 FORM ENTRY

ENGLISH, SCALE 1

To teach the subject to 'O' and C.S.E. levels.

STENWELL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, PONERTH (11-18) 7 FORM ENTRY

ENGLISH, SCALE 1

To teach up to 'O' C.S.E. level.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE, SCALE 1

TWO POSTS. To teach up to 'O' C.S.E. level. State preference, whether Cookery or Needlework. Some assistance required with Girls' Games.

HEAD OF ART AND CRAFT DEPARTMENT, SCALE 3

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible, suitably qualified teacher with successful experience.

WHICHURCH HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 12 Form Entry

GERMAN, SCALE 1

Graduate capable of teaching up to and including 'A' level.

WILLOW HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 7 Form Entry

HOME ECONOMICS, SCALE 1

To teach Cookery and Needlework up to C.S.E. and 'O' level.

SL TELF'S C/W HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 5 Form Entry

FRENCH, SCALE 1

Graduate to teach throughout the school.

HAYFIELD HOUSE R.C. GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 4 Form Entry

HEAD OF MUSIC DEPARTMENT, SCALE 3

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible, to be responsible for the subject throughout the school. Please state second subject in your application.

MOSHEN R.C. HIGH SCHOOL, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 7 Form Entry

BSICOGRAPHY, SCALE 1

Graduate to teach throughout the school including Sixth Form. Ability to offer Geology an advantage.

ST. CECILIA'S R.C. Comprehensive School, Barry (11-18) 3 Form Entry

MATHEMATICS, SCALE 3

Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible, Graduate to teach throughout the school, including some Sixth Form work.

SPANISH, SCALE 1

Graduate to introduce the subject into the curriculum and thereafter organise and teach it throughout the school. Ability to offer some French would be an advantage.

ST. MARY'S R.C. BOYS' COLLEGE, CARDIFF (11-18 Comprehensive) 5 Form Entry

GENERAL SUBJECTS AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SCALE 1

To teach the subjects mainly in the lower school.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SCALE 1

Part-time posts for approximately half time. Application forms to be obtained, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, from the undersigned, to whom completed forms should be returned within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

E. J. Adams, Director of Education,
Education Offices, Kingway, Cardiff.

SECONDARY Science continued

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON UPON THAMES,
SURREY KT3 6RH
(01 883 2000)

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Required to teach throughout the school. New intake. Graduate preferred. Previous experience in teaching. Good knowledge of the subject. Ability to offer Geology, Art, Music, Drama, French, Spanish, etc. Good knowledge of English and Mathematics. Salary scale £1,250-£2,000.

SCIENCE, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject. Ability to offer Physics and/or Biology to C.S.E. and 'D' level.

WELSH, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject. Ability to offer Welsh to C.S.E. and 'D' level.

GEOGRAPHY, SCALE 1 OR 2
Required for January 1978 or September 1977 if possible. Graduate to teach throughout the school and up to 'A' level. Knowledge of new Geography Techniques essential. Scale 2 allowance for suitably experienced candidate.

SCIENCE, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject. Ability to offer Physics and/or Biology to C.S.E. and 'D' level.

REMEDIAL TEACHER, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject. Ability to offer Remedial Education.

BOYS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject.

TEACHER, SCALE 1
Required to teach throughout the school. Good knowledge of the subject.

GERMAN, SCALE 1
Required to teach German throughout the school up to both 'O' and 'A' level standard.

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Bolton Metropolitan Borough

Required for September 1977.

HOME ECONOMICS, Scale 1

MUSIC, Scale 1

Assistance with English is also required.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, Scale 1

Assistance with History is also required.

Further details available with application form.

St. James' C.E. Secondary School, Lucas Road, Fernworth, Bolton. (Co-educational) 730 pupils.

MUSIC, Scale 1

To teach Music to C.S.E. standard, R.C. preferred if possible.

St. Gregory's R.C. Secondary School, Harrowby Street, Fernworth, Bolton. (Co-educational) 500 pupils.

MUSIC, Scale 1

To teach Music to C.S.E. standard, R.C. preferred if possible.

Whitecroft High School, Whitecroft Road, Bolton. (Co-educational) 810 pupils.

BOYS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION,

Scale 1

To take charge of the boys' P.E. Please state subsidiary subject or interests.

TEACHER, Scale 1

To assist with remedial work in English and/or Mathematics. An interest or experience in Religious Studies and/or Community Service would be an advantage.

Whitecroft High School, Whitecroft Road, Bolton. (Co-educational) 810 pupils.

SCIENCE, Scale 1

To teach all three sciences.

Whitecroft High School, Whitecroft Road, Bolton. (Co-educational) 810 pupils.

GERMAN, Scale 1

Required to teach German throughout the school up to both 'O' and 'A' level standard.

Normally at this stage II is a Scale 1 post but a higher scale could be available for an experienced teacher.

A willingness to help with other activities would be an advantage.

Whitecroft High School, Whitecroft Road, Bolton. (Co-educational) 810 pupils.

MATHEMATICS, Scale 1

To work with all age groups in this growing, recently extended and modernised school.

George Tomlinson Secondary School, Springfield Road, Keelebury, Bolton. (Co-educational) 830 pupils.

MAT

St Mary's College
Strawberry Hill

This is a Catholic College of Higher Education with 1,200 students (mixed). It offers internal degrees of London University and Honours level in Art, Sciences, Humanities and Education.

LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Applications are invited from well qualified and experienced persons for this post which becomes available in September 1977. However, consideration would be given to applicants who would not be able to take up the appointment until January 1978. Candidates should be able to offer a significant contribution in a theoretical aspect of the B.Ed./B.Hum. Degree course and also expertise in a practical area.

Salary in accordance with the Burnham Further Education scale and London Allowance.

Further details from the Principal to whom applications should be sent with the names of three referees. There are no official forms.

Applications to the address set out below. Friday, 24th June, 1977. The Principal, St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4BX. Tel. 01-892 0051 ext 222.



**LECTURER GRADE II
(Design and Technology)**

Applications are invited from well-qualified men and women for the post of Lecturer Grade II Design and Technology in this Church of England Voluntary College of Higher Education (1,600 men and women). The appointment starts 1st September, 1977, or as soon after as possible. The College, which was formed in 1925 through the amalgamation of The College of St. John, The College of the Priories in Higher Education, the Post-Creole Certificate in Education, the B.Ed. and the BA/BSc (College) degrees of the University of Leeds and the Diploma of the British Association of Teachers in Education. We also offer a range of Post-Creole courses, with an Industrial background, designed as preparation for teaching Design and Technical Subjects in schools.

Candidates should be able to contribute to a BA and BEd programme which includes a range of subjects including Dimensional Design and Design Education. A post is required who has a strong interest in two-dimensional Design and Graphics combined with Three-Dimensional Design ability in furniture, the use of plastics and other modern materials. Candidates should have had one year's experience in teaching, and further experience in industry, trade or commerce, and further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, The College of Ripon and York St. John, 100, York Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 1EX. Applications for appointment should be returned to arrive not later than Monday, 27th June, 1977.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TEACHING POSTS (2)

(1) Wellsway Community School, Blyth, Northumbria (80 Boys). Salary scale—Bursary Grade 1, plus ex-approved schools allowances and additional deference allowance.

Due to the retirement of the present postholder a qualified and experienced teacher is required for the Autumn of 1977. Ability and interest in providing individual tuition and a stimulating environment to disadvantaged teenage boys is essential. Full participation in social, recreational and adventure training is an integral part of this post.

Modern, centrally heated, three-bedroomed house with garage is available at an annual rent of £246. Eight weeks' annual leave.

(2) Senior Teacher—Emsworth House Observation and Assessment Centre (22 boys and girls)—Salary scale—Bursary Grade 2(a).

Duties include overall responsibility for the teaching programme (teaching staff of two plus senior teacher), the organization and supervision of the classrooms of the Centre. Completion of reports, advice and recommendations are important to the assessment procedure leading to decisions in placement of children. Applicants should have experience and an enthusiastic wish to promote and provide for outdoor nature studies and games with children, many of whom are in need of the individual and appropriate approach. Co-ordinated effort with members of child care staff are a desirable part of the whole effort covering the child's stay in the Centre. This is a non-residential post.

Five-day week—8 weeks' leave.

Application forms and job descriptions for the above posts are obtainable from the Director of Social Services at the address shown below.

Closing date: two weeks from the appearance of this advertisement.

TOWN HALL & CIVIC CENTRE, L. A. BLOOM, SUNDERLAND, SR2 7DN. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Borough of Sunderland

COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION
continued

SOUTH GLAMORGAN
COLLEGE OF LAGHORN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following full-time teaching appointments:

LECTURER IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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GERMANY

The Centro for British Teachers Limited invites application from young, enthusiastic teachers with a genuine interest in comprehensive education to teach ENGLISH in GESAMTSCHULEN in NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN for the academic year 1977/78.

Qualifications

Applicants must be trained graduates with teaching experience and very good spoken German. Newly-qualified teachers who have spent a year abroad as an Assistant may also apply.

Contract and Salary

Contracts are for one calendar year, from August 16th.

Monthly salary £400-£536, according to previous full-time experience.

The Centre pays the employer's contribution to UK National Insurance and Superannuation.

Salaries are Free of UK and German Income Tax for Periods of 12 Months and Upwards.

(DM 4.2 equals £1)

For further details and an application form, please write or telephone:

The Centro for British Teachers Limited (T12),
Quality House, Quality Court,
Chancery Lane,
London WC2A 1BP.
(Tel: 01-242 2982/5).

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

KNOW-HOW vital to developing countries

Education Overseas/Cayman Islands Secondary Education:

Head of Remedial Department

To organize the Remedial Education programme at the Cayman Islands High School, George Town, including responsibility for small ESN unit. Applicants, aged 30-45, should have teaching qualification together with specialist qualification at degree or diploma level in remedial education, and at least 6 years teaching experience at comprehensive school as Head of Department.

Secondary Education:

Teacher of History

To teach History to CSE and GCE O and A levels; to teach some Social Studies to lower forms. Applicants, aged 30-45, should have degree in History and teaching qualification together with minimum 5 years' teaching experience, some of it preferably in Comprehensive School.

Secondary Education:

Head of Mathematics Department

To organize the teaching of mathematics in Comprehensive School, and to teach Mathematics to CSE and GCE O and A levels. Applicants, aged 30-45, should have degree with Diploma in Education or equivalent teaching qualification, and about five specialised in teaching of Mathematics.

Appointments 2 years. Salary (all posts) in range £6,448-£9,168 p.a. An allowance, normally tax free, in range of £534-£684 p.a. (currently under review) is payable in certain circumstances. Terminal gratuity 25% of basic salary.

Other benefits include free family passages, children's education allowances, and subsidised accommodation. An appointment grant of up to £2000 may be payable in certain circumstances. Superannuation rights may be safeguarded. Applicants should be citizens of the United Kingdom.

For full details and application form, please apply, quoting ref. 318, clearly stating post concerned, and giving details of age, qualifications and experience to:

Appointments Officer:
Ministry of Overseas Development
Room 301, Eland House
Sieg Place
LONDON
SW1E 5DH

Appointments Officer:
MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
Room 301, Eland House
Sieg Place, London SW1E 5DH.

HELPING NATIONS HELP THEMSELVES



OVERSEAS Appointments continued

FRANCE

WANTED: English-speaking teacher required to teach English in primary school. Age: 25-35. Qualifications: B.Ed., M.A. or equivalent. Experience: 2-5 years. Details, references similar, and photo for interview before June 15th.

SPAIN

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TURKEY

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AFRICA

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FRANCE

Things rank and gross in nature

Robin Wood reviews 'Seven Beauties'

Lina Wertmüller's *Seven Beauties* is not a film to which it is permissible to feel indifferent; it is either extraordinary or execrable. I find it surprising that its critical reception in Britain has so little struck the note of outrage. A film from whose tone the comic (however black or grotesque) is seldom absent, that takes in murder, dismemberment, insanity, rape, shock treatment, cannibalism, camps, mass extermination, the execution of a man by his friend, and suicide by drowning in excrement, is not easy to accommodate within the established British bourgeois canons of "good taste".

One might, unforunately, expect that the fact that the film was written by a woman would give critics eager to express their freedom from male chauvinism a predisposition to politeness, and this may partly account for the general inhibition of denunciation. Yet its images of women are almost uniformly gross and repulsive. It is not easy to accommodate under the feminist banner either. What our critics have clung to is an alleged resemblance to Fellini and Ken Russell, noted favourably or unfavourably according to taste, making the film's horrors recuperable within the category of colourful phantasmagoria. The resemblance seems to me at best superficial, rely little more than the pretension of carrying everything in its logical excess. Fellini's career into private fantasy and Russell's bludgeoning of audiences into (hopefully) an owed and hypnotised mindless passivity are quite unlike either to Wertmüller's audacious project.

Important here are two suspicious minor characters, neither of whom has any place in the worlds of Fellini or Russell: the anarchist in the concentration camp (Fernando Rey), and the socialist in transit to prison. Between them

they offer, tentatively and without optimism, the nearest thing to positive values the film provides (slightly, the positions they represent are as much contradictory as complementary). But one's overall reaction to *Seven Beauties* is that it is a terrible perversion (Nazism). The film might be seen as propagating the inverse of the famous line in *Straw Dogs*, "Rais is life"; life is rats. Pasquale believes in order, and admires Mussolini; his every action testifies to the inherent disorder of the universe. After some understandable drive that enables him to survive. After some understandable difficulties (he is half starved to death), he manages to respond with an orchestra to the demands of the camp commandant, presented quite unambiguously as the most repellent sexual partner imaginable; for Pasquale, simply the idea of sex is sufficient to enable him to cope.

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Fernando Rey as Pedro.

these are motivated by "honour", survival, or the satisfaction of basic needs. The film never allows us to find the film simply disgusting; interestingly, that response is drowned out by the person of the chaotic, brutalized and mountainous concentration camp commandant (Shirley Stelfer), who is Pasquale as far as "noble" values are concerned. The scenes of rape, torture and sadism, the molestation of the innocent girl (twice) and his mother; both have become whores under the American occupation that has released Pasquale from the camp, his new image annihilated by their cruel vitality and cruelty. The second, long-held, is a close-up of Pasquale himself, disturbed and bewildered. The "honour" (the repressive and hypocritical assertion of a non-existent family purity) lost forever. By explicitly countering Pasquale's initial aesthetic order, the scene of the rape of the sex-mad angelic which feminism protests. Yet the sexuality is hardly glamorized or mystified. Incarcerated for the murder of his mother, Pasquale illustrates the moment's word as a cleaner, and rapes a madwoman who is strapped down to a bed, for which he is punished by being stripped to another.

The encounters with the surialist and the anarchist make the real thrust of the film clear. When Pasquale tells the former that Musso-

Central to the film is Pasquale's sexuality, which is anything but orderly. Wertmüller is obviously impressed by it, in a characteristically ambivalent way, and considering the image of women in the film uses it to highlight the sexualised nature of the concentration camp, which feminism protests. Yet the sexuality is hardly glamorized or mystified. Incarcerated for the murder of his mother, Pasquale illustrates the moment's word as a cleaner, and rapes a madwoman who is strapped down to a bed, for which he is punished by being stripped to another.

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Sounds and sweet airs

Robin Macdonald on 'Pro Corda'

Pro Corda's spring concert (May 28) in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, was the occasion for some spirited lobbying in connection with the association's present appeal for funds to acquire a permanent home in Leiston Abbey House, Suffolk. I hope they get it.

Pro Corda is unique institution dedicated to developing chamber music skills in young string players. At a time when the country nationally is suffering a shortage of good professional string players, such an organization deserves every support, but Pro Corda is much more than a training ground for rank and file musicians. Chamber music skills here as much to do with ensemble as with individual players, and the particular virtue of such a specialist approach is that it develops in the very young an experience of group collaboration that in the ordinary course of events would not begin to be acquired until a player had left school.

There can be no doubt that the procedure works. A programme of sample movements by Haydn, Beethoven, Shostakovich and Bartók took its audience step-by-step through the age range from 11 years to 16 plus. One could hear well-trained ensemble technicians playing with the curious emotional detachment that is an attractive feature of young music, gradually giving way to no less controlled, but increasingly self-aware styles of expression, at first copybook non-existent, then later more precisely individual.

The purchase of Leiston Abbey House may enable Pro Corda to give more attention to stage and concert, and a potent factor in keeping the morale, must be the quality of the instrument itself. Many young

Dory on tour

Christopher Griffin-Beale

Dary Previn's recent concert tour has enhanced the reputation of one of the USA's finest singer-songwriters, who has attracted a small but intense following by the directness, subtlety and wit with which she communicates her feelings and fears. Her acute sensitivity has been persistently compounded by the official reactions that have followed her performances over the past year, as if she were a threat to the musical establishment.

The quality of ensemble playing is the more remarkable when one considers that many of the young players have to travel long distances across the country to attend rehearsals—the sort of burden musicians bear to put up with, but one usually ignore by the education authorities. A quartet of 13-year-olds, led by Anna Joseph, displayed exceptional unoriginality of style, in tempo, bow control, and amazingly delicate trills. At the higher end of the range a quartet led by Shirley Stelfer was the more remarkable when the four members had not been described, often with wry humour, in her songs.

Her moodily "wistful" warood he

might be better after being passed in the war, was never convinced she was actually his and once he belted her out of her mother's arms, she was a goner. Her faith in him—she is flying—was forever shattered when she witnessed the crash of the Hindenburg, whose safety he had extolled.

She became a successful lyricist

for films, but after husband André left her for Mio Farrow, she started

recording her own personal songs,

marking out her feelings about her marriage in the song "Young Girls"), her father, her Catholic upbringing, and her strengths with insanity.

Perhaps the best introduction to

her work is One A.M. piano book

(UAS 30070), a selection from her

United Artists albums, of

which my favourite remains Mythical Kings and Queens (UAS 29186).

inior with which the composer pursued his art. In Chopin Derek McVilly refutes the myth about frailty for which he blames George Sand and tells us of an altogether more virile romanticism. They give a brief account of the composers' lives, some contemporary criticism, and a list of bibliographies, all of which help to illuminate certain characteristics of their musical viewpoint.

In Bach, by Alec Robertson, we

discover the ruthlessness and determination with which the composer pursued his art. In Chopin Derek McVilly refutes the myth about frailty for which he blames George Sand and tells us of an altogether more virile romanticism. They give a brief account of the composers' lives, some contemporary criticism, and a list of bibliographies, all of which help to illuminate certain characteristics of their musical viewpoint.

In Bach, by Alec Robertson, we

OU on Tyndale

Child art

Analyzing Children's Art by Max Bellanca, Kellie Muller (O.U.P.)

Benchmarks of the Daily Mirror

and a fine line in fiction titles. I recall V. J. Carr's Persian Gulf in Song and Story, A. Lajosdai and Ralph P. Pringle's Primitive Paintings, Andrew Dore's Ari by Rhoda Kellogg, and vintage books by Max Bellanca, Kellie Muller (O.U.P.)

confront so many contemporary

ogives and counterpoints.

She is mistress of ingenuity and paradox—and of the dramatic monologue. Both are evident in "Lady with the Braid", the song that first attracted me to her work (and the only one to achieve any substantial play). The lady is trying to persuade a man to stay till sunrise, alternately hiding and falling to hide her needs under a cloak of cheerful calmness ("I'm not going home each a ride"). This song confirms the distinctive Dory Previn's claim that she is a poet. Certainly her words sensitively and sensitively compounded by the official reactions that have followed her performances over the past year, as if she were a threat to the musical establishment.

The emotional turns are understated by her inflections, by her gentle street in "Would you care to stay till sunrise, it's completely

unoriginal to the point of cliché.

Grozny

is carefully handled, while the details of the sequence of events may seem too

remote from the possible.

The first part of *Commentary* on the series, "The Art of Drawing", is a useful introduction to the world of children's art.

It is being put out by Thymes on

all the networks at 4.45 pm today.

The idea behind the film is to help

children through events in their

lives to learn about the world around them.

It is difficult to imagine what

children can learn from this film.

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Film